



**Inside**

**An Inside Wrestling Exclusive:  
10 CAN'T-MISS PROSPECTS... WHO DID!**

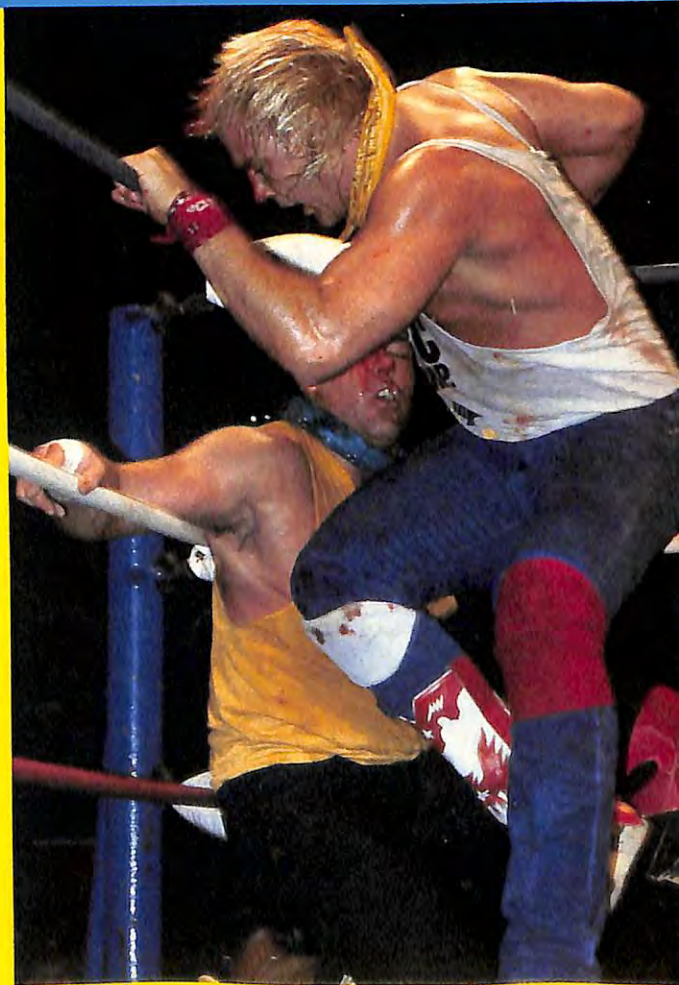
47727 April 1987  
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# **Wrestling**

## **MANY HAPPY RETURNS!**

● **RICK STEAMBOAT—THE DRAGON  
IS BREATHING FIRE AGAIN!**

● **BARRY WINDHAM—STAMPEDING  
BACK TO THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT!**



**PAUL ELLERING:**

**"I'M DISAPPOINTED IN THE FANS!"**

**ONE ON ONE:**

**JIMMY SNUKA VS. COL. DeBEERS**



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## SKINNY ISN'T ATTRACTIVE

If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthful. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

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## GAIN WEIGHT! GAIN WOMEN!

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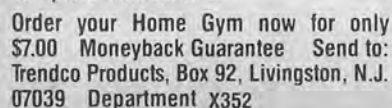
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INSIDE

# Wrestling

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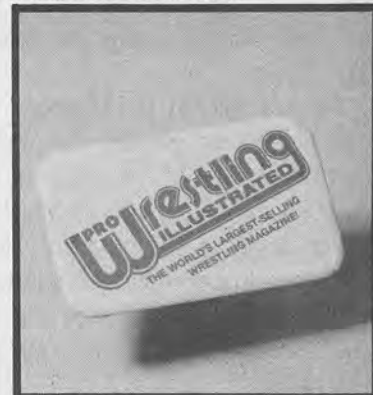
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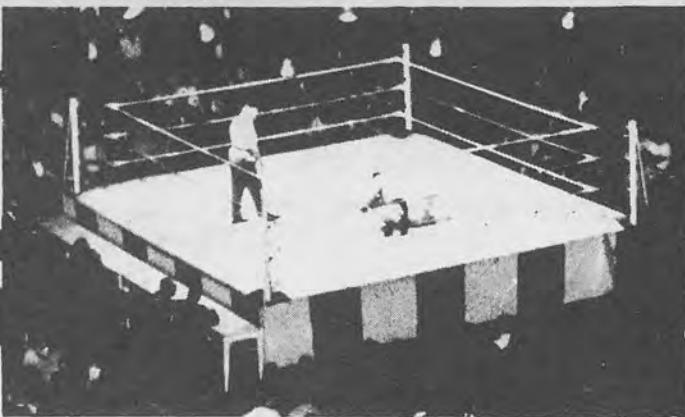
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# SINCERELY YOURS

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## PRAY FOR MAGNUM

I broke down and cried after finding out about Magnum T.A.'s tragic accident. I am a WWF fan from Boston and before reading this article, I had no idea what happened to Magnum T.A.

I'd just like to let Magnum know that he has my prayers, for whatever they're worth. It's horrible when a great young athlete such as Magnum is struck down in the prime of his life, and even worse when the injuries are so severe. The idea of such a graceful man being unable to move is unbearable.

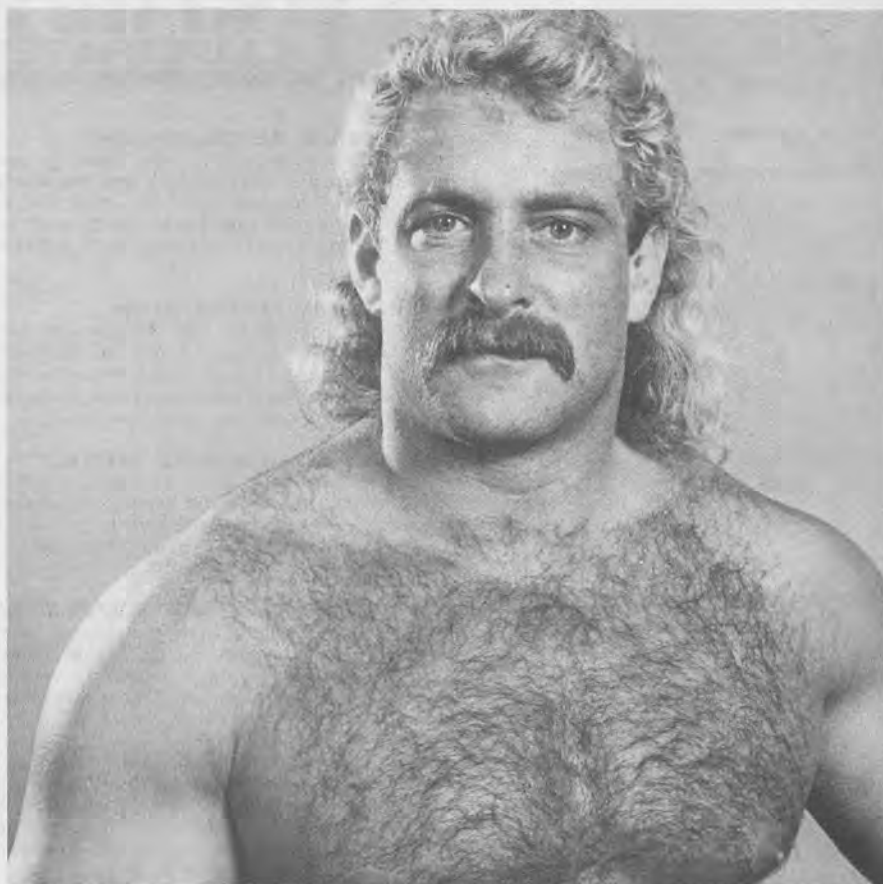
I hope and pray that Magnum recovers and someday returns to the ring. With the hopes and prayers of all his fans behind him, and with the dedication and spunk that he's displayed throughout his great career, I have a feeling that we're going to see Magnum back in the ring.

MARIE WHITE  
Boston

## SAVAGE SHOULD BE BANNED

I have never liked Randy Savage, but after what he did to Ricky Steamboat I can truly say I hate the man. It was evident that the not-so "Macho Man" was not content to beat Steamboat, or simply "eliminate him from title contention," like Jesse Ventura said.

No, this maniac was out to cause "The Dragon" very serious personal injury or perhaps even kill him. Savage went way beyond the boundaries of professional sport and his brutal actions should not be tolerated. Hitting Savage with suspension or a heavy fine



Although still hospitalized, Magnum T.A. is slowly recovering from his automobile accident. He draws sustenance from the prayers of fans like Marie White, who has a feeling Magnum will someday be back in the ring.

is not enough. I would like to see this nut banned from wrestling for life, but I know it won't happen.

In fact, it's looking more and more like the WWF will do absolutely nothing about this terrible incident. I would also like to say that Jesse Ventura is as sick as The Macho Man. Ventura brazenly cheered Savage's every demented move from behind the mike.

At this point, it looks like the career of another one of wrestling's brightest stars may be over. But I'm praying for The Dragon to recover and return to the ring. I have faith that Ricky will

come back, and when he does, Savage better run for cover.

LINDA GIORDANO  
Edensburg, PA

## ENOUGH OF SULLIVAN!

An open letter to Kevin Sullivan:

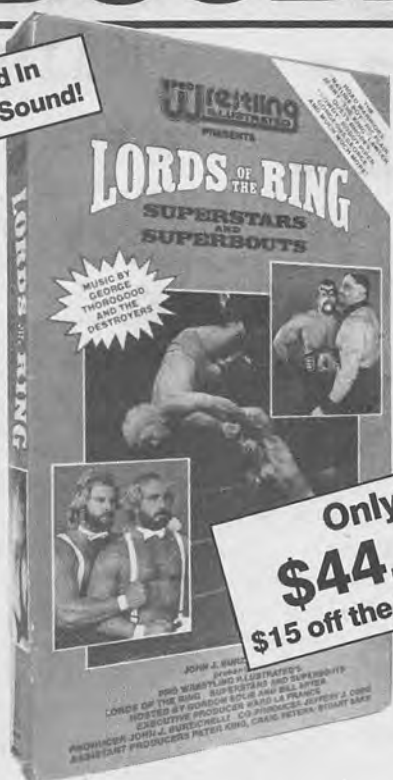
All right, Sullivan, the cards are on the table. Just who do you think you are? I watch wrestling on television for the action, not to hear your stories about Malaysia. I get enough of that in history. I don't go to the matches in Columbus to see you come waddling

(Continued on page 48)



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# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter  
King

Editor-in-Chief

In the olden days, before modern medicine, doctors had no wonder drugs that could help their patients. Usually, their treatment consisted of folk medicines and bad-tasting, vile-smelling potions like castor oil. The doctor would take his patient, pry open his mouth, and pour some of this horrible liquid down his throat. As the poor patient shivered in disgust, the doctor would say, "I know what's good for you." Today, we call a practice like that jamming something down a person's throat.

Which brings us to Dr. Vince McMahon, the fans, and the Honky Tonk Man.

A few months ago, Honky Tonk Man was brought to the WWF. He claimed to be a friend of Hulk Hogan's, and he claimed to be a fan favorite. In a word, the guy was pitiful. Fans booed him, but not in the way that fans boo a hated rulebreaker like Paul Orndorff. Those boos, you see, are earned. The boos Honky Tonk got were another way of saying, "Get lost, bum. You stink. You make us sick."

Any other promoter would have fired this guy on the spot. But Vince McMahon decided that Honky Tonk belonged in the WWF, and the fans would have to like it or else. Perhaps he thought Honky would sell tickets. Perhaps he thought Honky would sell dolls. Perhaps he thought Honky would mow his lawn in the summer.

Anyway, Honky soon made a career move. He hired Jimmy Hart as his manager, and told the fans to get lost. Now, when the fans boo him, they are booing a rulebreaker. At least it sounds right. Of course, the fans still don't hate Honky, they just can't stand the sight of him.

Still, McMahon continues to jam this guy down the fans' throats. He is the doctor, and the fans are his patients. He knows what's best for them. So how do you explain all the empty seats at some recent WWF shows? Maybe the patients are losing patience with the doctor.

MEN —  
WOMEN

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My advice to any business beginner is don't try to be a "pioneer" like I was. You don't have to. Besides you'll make all the dumb mistakes I did at the beginning. Fortunately you can follow my Mellinger World Trade/Mail Order Business Plan,

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# TOP SECRET

## Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Stu  
Saks

**L**ET ME SHARE with you a letter we received from Gregory P. Price of Tampa, Florida, a subscriber (now former subscriber) to our sister publication *Sports Review Wrestling*.

*To the Editor:*

*I've just finished reading the "We Accuse" segment in the January 1987 issue of **Sports Review Wrestling**. I am a middle-aged black man with a family. And we are all big wrestling fans and subscribe to your magazine. But I refuse to allow my kids to read the disgusting comments Col. DeBeers is allowed to say in a national magazine. You accuse him of being a "bigot," which he is, but you refuse to silence him. And until you do, I'm afraid I'll have to discontinue my hobby, which is reading your fine magazine monthly.*

I expected this letter. Actually, I expected quite a few more just like it. I do not write this column with the intent of changing the mind of anybody who is upset over the recent stories we have been running on Col. DeBeers in our family of magazines. And while I would hope to be open-minded enough to feel I can sympathize with Mr. Price's feelings, I will not presume to say that I know what it is like to be a black man in America. Being white, there is no way that I can.

All I can do is try to explain the role of our magazines with regard to DeBeers and his vociferous support of the policy of apartheid, which, in effect, makes racial bigotry the law of his South African homeland.

DeBeers is very vocal about his feelings regarding the role of mi-

*(Continued on page 52)*

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**S**POTLIGHTS CUT THROUGH the darkness of Atlanta's Omni to illuminate NWA World heavyweight champion Ric Flair. He stands alone, bathed in the cleansing power of the bright lights, his brilliant blue robe providing visual splendor to match the legend that is his career.

Somewhere in The Omni sits a woman who experiences a unique satisfaction at this very second. She is the architect of this spectacular sight, the woman who designed and fashioned Flair's magnificent garment.

She smiles. She thinks back about the hundreds of hours of sewing and measuring and sweating and late nights that resulted in this splendid moment. And she still can't believe that the work is complete. But it is complete. And it is glorious.

After all, the man who defines professional wrestling in the '80s—who prides himself on "stylin' and profilin'"—can't enter the ring in a Macy's flannel coat. No. NWA World Champion Ric Flair deserves something very, very special.

\*\*\*

Miss Olivia of Atlanta doesn't have a storefront. She doesn't advertise in *Vogue* or *Esquire* or *GQ*. She doesn't solicit business, but she's got all the work she can handle. And then some.

I am fortunate enough to have met Miss Olivia several times since joining the staff of *Inside Wrestling*. My latest visit to her home, the day before Starrcade, found Olivia hunched over her work like a frenetic diamond cutter, working quickly but meticulously to complete her latest assignment: Ric Flair's newest robe, which was to be debuted the next night.

"Oh, darlin', I'm sorry," Olivia said apologetically, "but I've got so much to do, I can't stop right now. Is it all right if we talk right here?" The brogue hasn't left Olivia's voice despite the fact that it's been some years since she arrived in the United States from Ireland. "You know what Flair will be like if I don't finish this in time, and he's due to come in today!"

Olivia is Flair's one and only robe designer. The ornate designs, the fringe, the name "Flair" on the back—every-

## ON THE ROAD

with  
CRAIG PETERS

thing is handmade. It's time-consuming.

And very expensive. Flair's robes, considering labor and materials and time involved, can be as expensive as \$15,000.

"Sometimes it takes as long as three months to design and fashion a robe, start to finish," Olivia explains as she fastens rhinestones to one of the sleeves. "Generally I'll meet with Flair for a few hours before I begin any serious work."

We'll discuss what kind of robe he wants, what kind of an attitude he wants to express in this particular piece of work. Then I'll go and work up some preliminary sketches, and we'll meet a second time. When he approves one of

the sketches, I then begin the actual work on the robe. After the work is done, we meet a third time to do any final fitting that might be needed."

Three meetings with Flair—necessary, but not always convenient. The NWA World champion is a busy man, so there are times when, in order to proceed with the work that must be done, Flair will fly Miss Olivia to the city where he's wrestling in order to approve a sketch or discuss a design.

"One time Flair flew me to Tokyo in the middle of a big tour he was on," Olivia said. "It was a six-day trip for me, and I only met with him for about a half-hour. But he paid all my expenses, and I had a chance to see Japan for a few days."

Miss Olivia was born in Dublin, Ireland, and attended Loretta College, an all-girl private school in Dublin City. Talent ran in the family: Olivia's father was a European car designer, helping design automobiles for noted race car driver Sterling Moss, and her mother was a fashion designer and a writer for *Reader's Digest* magazine. Olivia worked for several European and American fashion designers before establishing a strong freelance business on her own and carving a unique niche in the world of wrestling. She's designed robes and ring jackets for dozens of wrestlers, including Greg Valentine, The Killer Bees, Paul Orndorff, Jim Garvin, and Mr. Wrestling II. But Flair is her most frequent—and demanding—customer.

"Ric wants only the best," Olivia explains, "and I only use the best. The rhinestones, which can number as many 40 or 50 gross on one robe, and have to be hand-sewn one at a time, come directly from Austria by way of Kahner Company in New York. You talk about time consuming, try and sew 7,000 rhinestones onto heavy cloth, one at a time!"

Late in the afternoon, as Olivia was putting the finishing touches on the Starrcade '86 robe, the doorbell rang. It was Flair, ready for his fitting; it fit perfectly. "Lovely as always," Flair said. Olivia smiled a smile as bright as the Blarney Stone in the noonday sun. "Thank you, darlin'!" she said, "and if you have a minute, Ric, I have some sketches about that new robe you wanted."

I can't divulge the secrets of Flair's newest robe design. But I can say it will be something very, very unique—it will have a quality about it that, to my knowledge, exists in no other wrestler's robe anywhere in the world.

And when Flair premieres that newest attraction, Olivia will be there in the stands, smiling, as the fans greet the regal Ric Flair—resplendent as always in the most glorious ring robe in all of wrestling. □



Miss Olivia, Ric Flair and the new robe

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# NAMES MAKI

Christmas night is a time when families get together with friends and share each other's company. The last gift has already been unwrapped, the turkey has been served and eaten, and children are busily playing with their new toys. That's the way it's supposed to be. That's the way it has always been with the **Von Erich** family and **Brian Adias**.

But they're friends no longer and on Christmas night in Dallas' Reunion Arena the feud grew that much larger. The still-recovering **Kerry Von Erich** was at ringside for a match pitting his brothers, **Kevin** and **Mike**, against



**BRIAN ADIAS**

Adias and **Al Madril**. The Von Erichs won by disqualification, and then Kerry hobbled into the ring and humbled Adias and Madril.

It was a stunner, especially considering that doctors ordered Kerry to stay away from the action. But Kerry is still deeply hurt by Adias' actions and his

feelings won't let him just stand by and watch. "It's too bad that something like this has to happen around Christmas time," said Kerry, "but something must be done about Brian. He needs to be taught a serious lesson."

Adias, on the other hand, says that he has already learned his lesson. "Now I know that being friends with the Von Erichs gets you nowhere," he said. "Look at me, I'm climbing in the ratings and me and Al are [World Class] tag team champions! When I was with the Von Erichs, I had nothing but their false friendship."

**Dynamite Kid** has been told by doctors never to wrestle again, according to informed sources. Kid, who is one-half of the WWF World tag team champions **The British Bulldogs**, was



**DYNAMITE KID**

injured in a match against **Magnificent Muraco** and **Bob Orton** on December 13 at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton, Ontario.

Ten days later, at Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary, Kid underwent surgery

to have a disc removed from his spine. Although initial reports stated that Kid was paralyzed from the waist down and would never walk again, he was released from the hospital only six days after surgery. According to a hospital spokesman who refused to elaborate on details of the extent of injury or the operation itself, "there will be no serious lasting effects from the injury." Whether or not he will wrestle again is unknown at this point.

There has been no word from WWF officials as to the status of the tag team title. As of press time, the **Bulldogs** were still champions, but if Kid is unable to wrestle, the title will most likely be declared vacant.



**HONKY TONK MAN**

**The Honky Tonk Man** has proven to be incredibly unpopular in the WWF. As one fan said to me, "They oughta just send this guy back to Memphis, or wherever it is he came from. He's just plain boring!" . . . **Terry Taylor** and **Hacksaw Duggan** combined to win

# N' NEWS

Bill Apter  
reporting...

the UWF tag team title from **Bad Leroy Brown** and **Bill Irwin** in Fort Worth, Texas ... **Abdullah the Butcher** defeated **Bruiser Brody** in a loser-leave-town steel cage match in Dallas' Reunion Arena. Brody is now headed for the Florida area.

The Superfly is back! Medical experts said that **Jimmy Snuka** would



JIMMY SNUKA

never wrestle again, but the Fijian superstar made his return on Christmas Night in St. Paul, Minnesota, and won! He delivered a bloody, 15-minute beating to archrival **Col. DeBeers** and sent the South African fleeing to the dressing room. DeBeers was counted out.

"That was only a temporary situation," said DeBeers afterward. "I failed to appropriately calculate the animalistic tendencies of Snuka. He's like a wild ape. The man has no brain and acts on instinct. That will end up

to be his downfall when he faces a superior white man such as myself."

With **Barry Windham** now in the World Championship area, much talk has centered around the threat he'll pose to NWA World champion **Ric Flair**. So I went right to the source, "The Nature Boy," and asked him about Barry. "I have beaten Windham a thousand times, so you tell me why things should be any different?" said Flair. "This is a man who was mutilated by **Lex Luger**, and I have also beaten Luger many times. The Nature Boy will be champion forever and don't you forget it! *Whoo!*"

Maybe so, but AWA World champion **Nick Bockwinkel** seems to be losing favor with the fans. He has been roundly booed at many recent AWA shows ... **Ronnie Garvin** has been forced to give up his Mid-Atlantic belt. He recently won the U.S. tag team championship with Windham and the rules state that he cannot hold two titles at the same time ... **Tommy Rich's** feud with Mid-Southern champ **Jerry Lawler** is reaching epic proportions. The former NWA World champ says that he will not let up until he gets a shot at Bockwinkel.



KAMALA

In an effort to eliminate confusion with the World Championship area's U.S. tag team title, Florida has terminated its U.S. tag team title in favor of the Florida tag team championship. In the final round of the tournament in Tampa on December 25 to declare champions, "**The New Breed**," **Sean Royal** and **Chris Champion** defeated **Kendall Windham** and **Vic Steamboat**. Steamboat is the younger brother of WWF star **Rick Steamboat**.

**Steve Williams** won the inaugural \$50,000 PWI/UWF Challenge Tournament by defeating **One Man Gang** in the final. Complete details can be found in the May issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, but Williams won at 21:43 when he summoned up his last ounce of energy to cover the UWF champion. Gang had just missed a dive off the top rope. So congratulations go out to Dr. Death.

The **Hulk Hogan-Kamala** wars are heating up and most of the matches held so far have ended without a pinfall. Most people figured that Kamala would get disqualified in most of these matches, but so far The Ugandan Giant has been on his best behavior. In fact, **Wizard Curtis** and **Kim Chee** have done most of the dirty work for him.

On Christmas Night at the Capital Centre in Landover, Maryland, Curtis and Kim Chee interfered and caused the disqualification of Kamala. And the same thing happened one night later at Madison Square Garden. But is Kamala laying low and waiting to launch a vicious attack on the WWF World champion? "I think so," said one wrestler. "Kamala looks like he's just ready to bite a big chunk out of Hogan's head."

That's all for now, fans! See you at the matches! □



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**January 1977**/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

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**February 1986**/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

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# NO HOLDS BARRED

with David Rosenbaum



John Tatum (looking to ram Ted DiBiase into the turnbuckle) faces criminal charges after he was involved in a car accident that killed a man. Louisiana police say that while searching Tatum's car, they found marijuana. Tatum denies that charge.

**T**HINGS ARE TOUGH all over. Or, "A Look At The Notebook Of A Rookie Wrestling Journalist Who Didn't Know What He Was Getting Into."

John Tatum faces maximum 15 years in prison. The UWF star was to be arraigned in late January in Natchitoches Parish 10th District Court on charges of negligent homicide, possession of marijuana, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, and

improper passing. The charges stem from a two-car accident in Natchez, Louisiana, on the evening of November 24, 1986, in which Tatum struck the vehicle driven by Jason Randolph Rachal, killing the 29-year-old man.

Tatum, who suffered two broken ankles and minor lacerations, was arrested by the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office on December 5, upon his release from Louisi-

ana State University Medical Center.

As might be expected, versions of the accident differ. According to the report released by the Louisiana State Police, it was raining and Tatum was attempting to pass three 18-wheel trucks when he struck Rachal's car. Rachal was killed instantly. While searching Tatum's car for a driver's license, police allegedly discovered a half-pound of marijuana.

When reached at LSU Hospital, Tatum asserted his innocence. "It wasn't negligent, it was an accident," Tatum said. "It was storming and when I changed lanes, I rammed into the guy. The other guy only had one headlight on and I was only passing one 18-wheeler. There was no marijuana in the car. It's just something the police are saying. I had none on me. I plan to plead not guilty to all charges."

Tatum's attorney, William H. Ledbetter, is confident that his client will be cleared of these rather serious charges. "When the whole case goes through the system, I am confident that the charges will be dropped," said Ledbetter. "We have investigated the accident and it was just an accident. The accident occurred as a result of the weather. There may also have been some factors involving the other vehicle." Ledbetter would not elaborate on those factors and refused to comment on the marijuana-related charges.

Of course, the legal process can do little to alleviate the tragedy  
(Continued on page 56)

# I found a way to **SELL PART-TIME...** **MAKE FULL-TIME INCOME!**



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1st person story by Tedd Mainwaring

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"About that time I got injured and ended up having to move my family to a different area to take a job as a maintenance mechanic. That idea of controlling my own destiny kept gnawing at me. By now I had five children with extra expense of about \$2,400 a year sending the oldest one to a speech and hearing center.

"How could a guy like me save up enough money to start my own business? To get into most businesses you have to own a corner of Fort Knox. If I could only ease into a business without giving up the regular salary I had to count on to put food on the table. And without making any investment. As long as I was dreaming, wouldn't it be great to find something where every single spare time order could bring in *really big* extra money.

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it is to set up a business and keep it running profitably. So all I had to do was go out and find somebody with a leaky roof, and tell him about Pace products.

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"That school building is now leak-free for the first time in 25 years, so they had me do five other roofs with Pace's Seamless Spray. I was on my way. Today my family and I are enjoying a life we never thought possible before—all thanks to my accepting Pace's invitation to return that little coupon in the ad I read."

*Tedd Mainwaring*

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# THE INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

*[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on this magazine.]*

**F**OR MILLIONS OF Texans, the most promising aspect of calendar year 1986 is that it is over. On January 1, they burned their datebooks and prayed that their grandchildren will never be plagued with a year like the one gone by.

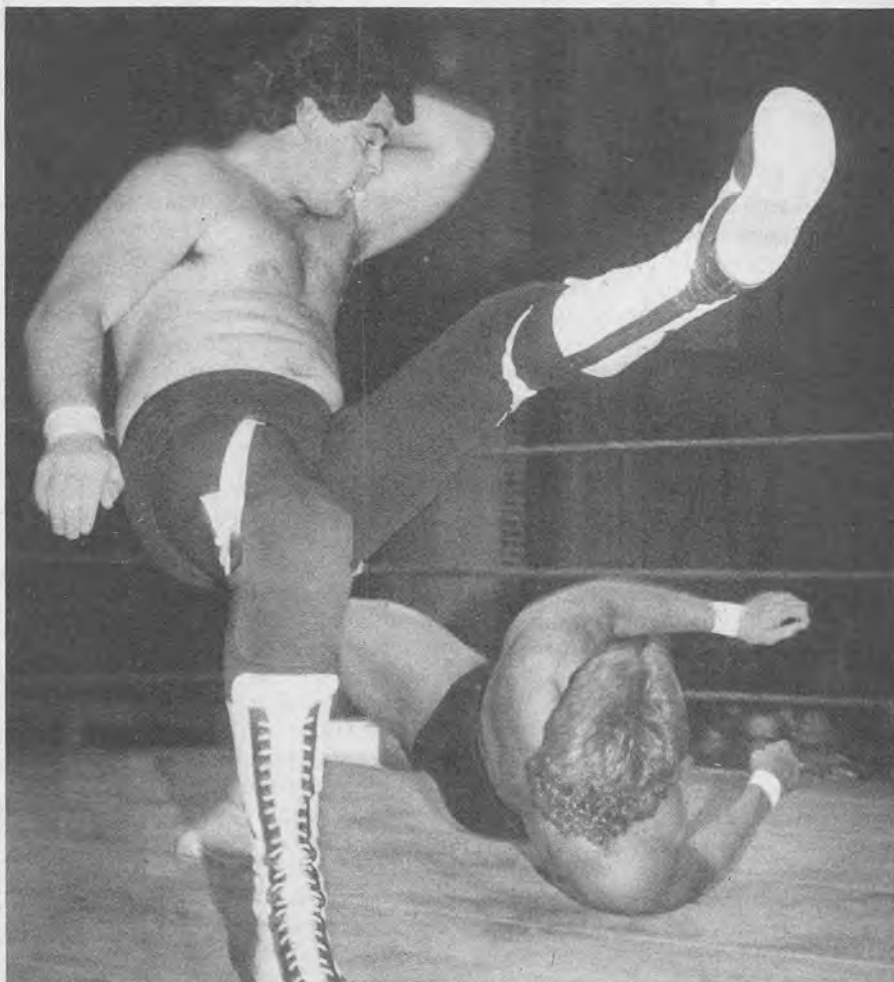
Forget the oil glut that left thousands unemployed and spread poverty quicker than a Texas twister. Never mind the housing glut that took the mega out of hundreds of wealthy businessmen. These distractions will be overcome. The homeless will find shelter, the hungry will be fed, the wealthy will still shop. Other problems, however, threaten to unravel the proud fabric of Texas life.

●The University of Texas is trounced by bitter rival Oklahoma and finishes with their first losing record in over 20 years. Coach Fred Akers is dismissed amidst a flurry of death threats from furious alumni.

●The Dallas Cowboys lose seven out of their last nine games and wind up with their first losing season in 22 years. Fans don paper bags during the season-ending loss to Chicago.

●Kerry Von Erich is seriously injured in a motorcycle accident, leaving his future as a professional wrestler in jeopardy.

●Texas native Stan Hansen is



Lance Von Erich rolls out of the way of Brian Adias' attempted elbowsmash. Adias made a good career move when he broke with the Von Erichs, who try to control the activities of all their wrestling "friends." I think this might teach the Von Erichs a lesson.

stripped of the AWA championship. Frustrated, he retreats to Japan for several weeks.

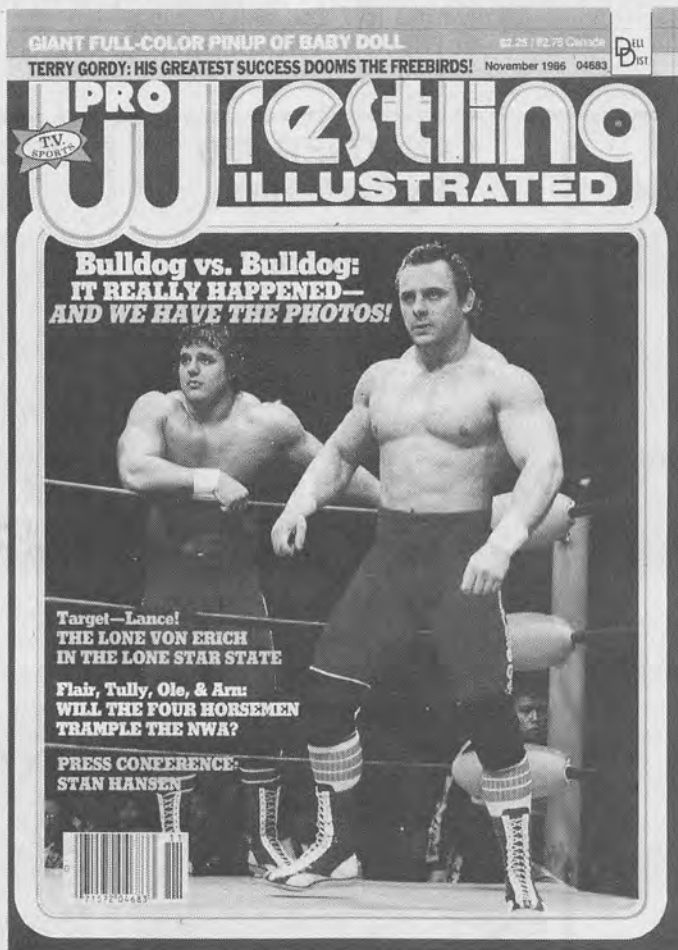
Note that the defection of long-time Von Erich ally Brian Adias to the ranks of the rulebreakers is not included. There was nothing surprising about Adias' maneuver. What's surprising is that it took Adias so long to comprehend that wrestling politics in Texas is like so many other Lone Star institutions: If you aren't part of the

"network," i.e., if your connections aren't properly aligned, then you're not likely to succeed.

In the world of the World Class, unless your last name is Von Erich, "success" lacks much of its sweet cadence. At best, you can expect a bone from the mansion. From Chris Adams to Steve Simpson, including Adias, this chosen pal is made to feel like "part of the family." As an honor-

*(Continued on page 57)*

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Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571

## TROY, NY By Douglas A. Ruso



### RODDY PIPER vs. MAGNIFICENT MURACO



Piper was immediately incensed by the sight of Muraco coming to the ring wearing a kilt. A match of powerful blows and exciting action continued until Piper was thrown to the concrete floor, where Muraco's manager, Mr. Fuji, attacked The Rowdy Scot with his cane. Piper dragged Fuji up on the ring apron. Muraco snuck up from behind, but crashed into Fuji when Piper moved out of the way. Piper then pinned Muraco with a rolling cradle.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Kamala defeated George Steele by disqualification ... The Hart Foundation beat The Islanders by disqualification ... Butch Reed breezed by Pedro Morales ... The Honky Tonk Man defeated Mr. X ... Paul Roma beat Steve Lombardi.

## LANDOVER, MD By Faris Hitti



### KAMALA vs. KING KONG BUNDY



In this rare matchup at the Capital Centre, Kamala was assisted by The Wizard and his trainer Kim Chee, but Bundy's manager, Bobby Heenan, was absent. The Wizard and Kim Chee repeatedly climbed on to the ring apron to instruct Kamala and distract Bundy. Bundy avalanched Kamala, but before he could do it again, Kamala moved away and Bundy smashed into the turnbuckle. Kamala quickly splashed Bundy, delivered a devastating big splash off the top rope, and covered Bundy for the three-count.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Roddy Piper & George Steele beat Bob Orton & Magnificent Muraco ... Hillbilly Jim pinned Jimmy Jack Funk ... Hercules Hernandez defeated Koko B. Ware ... Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake beat The Islanders ... Billy Jack Haynes pinned Steve Lombardi ... Pedro Morales beat Jack Kruger.

## BLOOMINGTON, MN By Jason Biasi



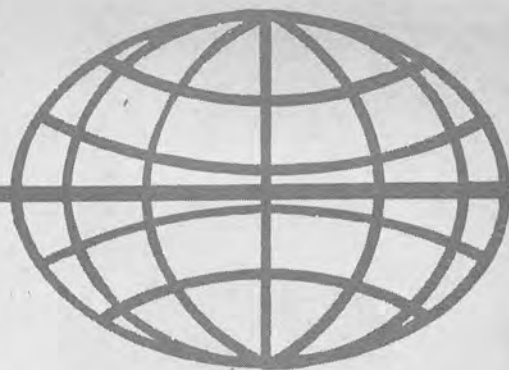
### JIMMY GARVIN vs. BRAD ARMSTRONG



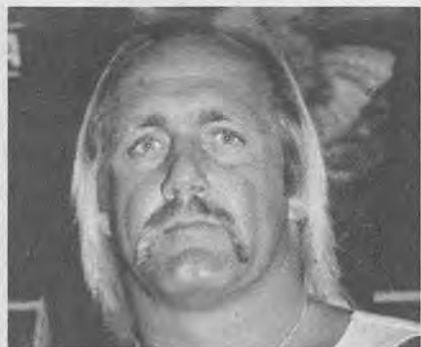
Fans at the Met Sports Center were rocking in what was a pretty evenly matched contest. Garvin's valet, Precious, turned the tide of the match when she distracted the referee three times while Garvin pulled on Armstrong's hair. Armstrong gained the advantage with a dropkick, but while Garvin was down, Precious handed him an aerosol can, which he used to hit Armstrong over the head and get the pin.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Ric Flair defeated Dusty Rhodes in an NWA title match with two referees ... The Road Warriors defeated The Midnight Express ... Wahoo McDaniel & Baron Von Raschke and the Andersons were all counted out ... Bubba defeated Tim Horner ... Ricky Lee Jones and Shaska Whatley went to a time-limit draw ... Konga the Barbarian pinned Nelson Royal.

# WRESTLING CAPITALS



## PITTSBURGH, PA By Lee Cheek



**HULK HOGAN  
vs.  
PAUL ORNDORFF**



Orndorff was determined to make Hogan sorry he ever accepted a cage match, bloodying the champion as he entered. Hogan blocked several escape attempts and eventually gained the upper hand. Near the end, a Hogan-Orndorff collision swung the door open and knocked the referee unconscious. Bobby Heenan entered the ring, but the Hulkster smashed his head into the cage. With both men down, Hogan dealt out more punishment to his enemies and went over the top to win.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Randy Savage pinned Junkyard Dog ... The British Bulldogs beat Iron Sheik & Nikolai Volkoff ... Jake Roberts beat Tito Santana by countout ... Butch Reed defeated Dick Slater ... Dan Spivey & Mike Rotundo beat The Moondogs ... Dino Bravo pinned Cpl. Kirchner ... Jacques Rougeau beat Jim Neidhart by disqualification ... Brett Hart drew with Raymond Rougeau.

## RICHMOND, VA By Albert Frankel



**WAHOO McDANIEL  
vs.  
MANNY FERNANDEZ**



In this Indian strap match, both men were busted open rather quickly. The momentum went back and forth, with Wahoo getting off some very hard tomahawk chops. Wahoo won the bout by dragging Fernandez to all four posts. After the match, Fernandez and his manager, Paul Jones, beat up on Wahoo.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Nikita Koloff & Dusty Rhodes beat Ric Flair & Tully Blanchard ... Road Warrior Animal & Paul Ellering defeated The Midnight Express by disqualification ... The Andersons beat The Rock 'n' Roll Express ... Brad Armstrong defeated Jimmy Garvin by DQ ... The Kansas Jawhawks beat Ivan Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev ... Bill Dundee drew with Hector Guerrero.

## MEMPHIS, TN By Ron Thimmelman



**JERRY LAWLER  
vs.  
KABUKI**



This match pitted the popular Lawler against Kabuki, the evil Oriental wrestler. It was decided that the two could best settle their differences in a barbed wire match. Lawler had the upper hand until Tommy Rich interfered and caused him to lose the contest. Rich was angry because it was Lawler, and not he, who would get a title match against AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Memphis Vice beat Goliath & Downtown Bruno ... Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond won the International tag team title from Akio Sato & Tarzan Gotha ... Big Bubba beat Tommy Rich by disqualification ... The RPMs defeated Jeff Jarrett & Billy Travis.





# Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

**HARTFORD, CT:** I hate being used and I feel like Vince McMahon tried to use me and about 15,000 other fans at the Hartford Civic Center. It was December 14 and they were taping *Saturday Night's Main Event*, those 90-minute wrestling extravaganzas aired on NBC-TV every one in a while to replace *Saturday Night Live*. There are some who will say that the wrestling shows are funnier than *Saturday Night Live*, but I really wouldn't know because on most nights by 11:30, I'm either out like a light or

how much noise they can make. Well, McMahon gives the three-count, the crowd goes wild, then McMahon just does this about-face and does the opening for the televised show. This is an obvious scam and I just got out of my seat and left. I'm here to cover wrestling, not a sitcom, and as far as I know, television show people give out free tickets to fill their audience. McMahon is charging a high of 15 bucks a ticket and probably making out like a bandit when you figure commercial time. Disgusting.



**VINCE MCMAHON**

flying 20,000 feet above the earth. Fortunately, they tape *Saturday Night's Main Event* at a normal hour and the place was packed. The card was fine and had some pretty good matches, but McMahon really rubbed me the wrong way. Just before the Hulk Hogan-Paul Orndorff steel cage match, McMahon climbs into the ring and starts working the crowd like some TV game show warm-up man. Then the guy goes and double-crosses the crowd. He tells them that at the count of three, he wants to hear

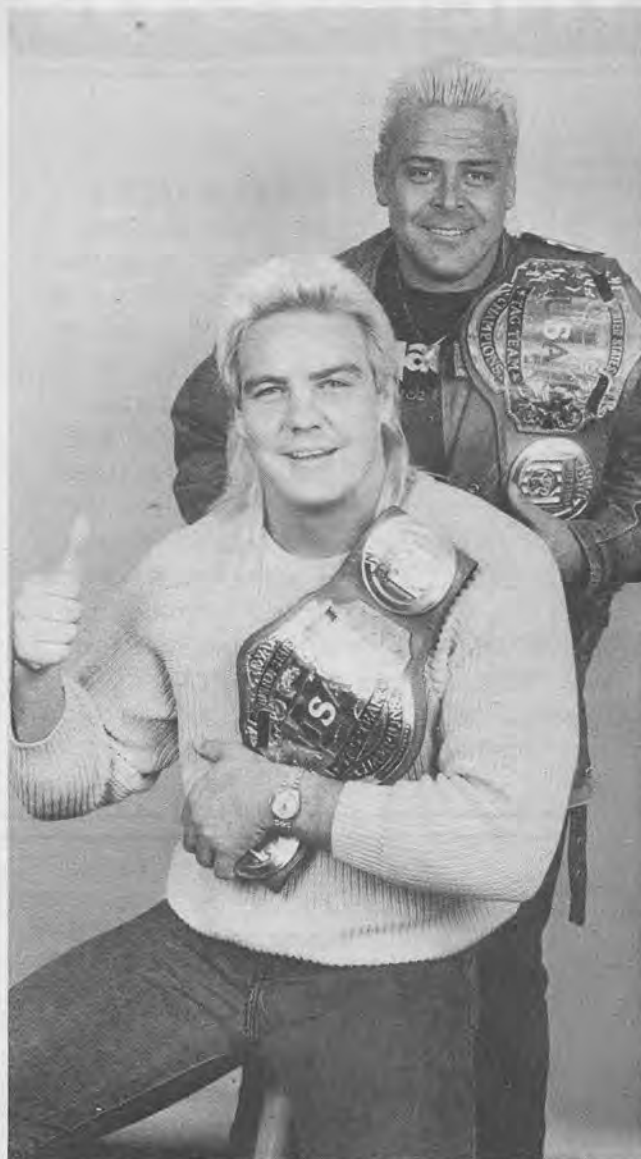
**HOUSTON, TX:** A man is innocent until proven guilty. Remember that, because it's probably the most important aspect of our country's criminal justice system and it applies to even the lowest criminal. John Tatum is not the lowest criminal and right now, he's not even a criminal. The man is innocent until proven guilty and Tatum maintains that he is innocent. We will probably never know exactly what happened on that rainy night in late November, when Tatum's car crashed head-on into a 1983 Chevy, killing its driver. Was Tatum passing one truck or three? Did the Chevy have only one headlight working, as Tatum claims, or both? Was there pot in the car, as the police charged? We can only thank the good Lord that only one man died in this terrible accident. By all rights, Tatum and Melinda White, who was driving with Tatum—could have been killed. Tatum should consider himself very lucky, and so should Miss White. I only know that the day after this accident, I was driving down a two-lane road and some 96-year-old dame in front of me was going about five miles an hour. I was about to pull into the left lane to pass when I thought about Tatum. I pulled back. Maybe I was being overdefensive, but you only get one life, buddy. I haven't seen my last wrestling match yet. Come to think of it, I did see a pretty good match while I was down here, the final of the *PWI/UWF* Tournament. Steve "Dr. Death" Williams beat One Man Gang and Doc got out of trouble a number of

## Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

times. Bill Apter was there and it was good to talk to Bill. He'll make a great old-timer.

**PHILADELPHIA, PA:** Christmas Day and I've had my fill of crying babies and family small talk. A good friend of mine from the old *New York Tribune* now lives in Philly and he asked me if I'd like to have Christmas dinner with him and his family. The only thing is, if I had known how big his family is, I wouldn't have accepted. And who could have guessed that between 20 adults and 35 children, there wouldn't be a wrestling fan in the bunch. So I'm walking and all the houses are lit up and most of the kids' new toys are broken by now and once again I start to think about wrestling. It might seem like wrestlers live the glamour life, but nothing could be further from the truth. Baseball players work from February to October. Football players go from July to January. Wrestlers go all year around, except for a one-week break just before Christmas, when all the offices are closed and the arenas are dark. Then they go home to their families and it's the only time all year they spend any time with them. It's a tough life. Real tough. And even tougher for the guys who don't have a family because then they have nowhere to go. I'm lucky that I have friends, even if their kids are brats, but all of the major promotions started up again today and there are shows all over. Something tells me that I should be somewhere else today. But I'm not. Oh well. Merry Christmas, Matt.

**CHARLOTTE, NC:** I like Barry Windham and I think his going to the World Championship area was the right move. Put it this way. Here's a youngster with years of experience under his belt, a talented kid, and there he was in Florida, working in the shadow of Lex Luger, a great wrestler, sure, but one who's only been around for a little more than a year. Anyway, Windham wasn't going to get the Southern title from Luger, only partly because they're good friends, so going to the World Championship area was the only proper move. Ric Flair is just asking to be beaten. All the years of being champion are wearing him down, but there's just no fresh blood in the World Championship area, so



**BARRY WINDHAM & RON GARVIN**

Flair keeps rolling along. Windham will give Flair a serious run for his money and I think he can beat him. I only say "think," because Flair has been known to pick his game up a notch when somebody gives him a really tough challenge. Windham will do that. He has the toughness of his father, Blackjack Mulligan, and he's built a heck of a lot better than that stringbean of a brother, Kendall. Anyway, I'm going to be paying a lot more attention to this area now that Windham is around, because things will start to happen. That, I can guarantee. □



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## MASSA SAITO

Mr. Saito, a former Japanese Olympian, held the WWF World tag team title with Mr. Fuji on two occasions, but an unfortunate incident with police officers in 1984 resulted in a jail sentence for him and Ken Patera. Both men are now out

of prison and Mr. Saito is has returned to wrestling as the tag team partner with The Super Ninja, under the tutelage of Larry Zbyszko. The three are also appearing regularly in six-man tag team matches.



## BOBBY DAVIS

From beefcake to beefburgers. The man who managed former NWA and WWF World champion Buddy Rogers is currently an executive for the Wendy's restaurant chain in Los Angeles. "I paved the way for all the successful

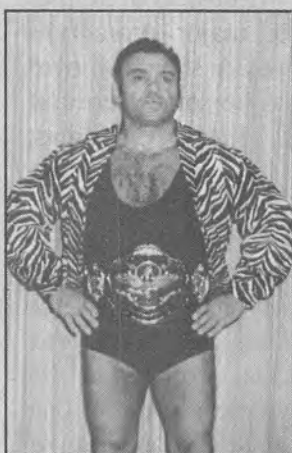
managers of today," said Davis. "They're all cheap copies." Davis, who speaks to Rogers at least twice a month, says he still follows the sport but has no intentions to become actively involved.



## BORIS ZUKHOV

The Russian who was famous for his feud with Sgt. Slaughter in the AWA is headed for Florida, according to manager Chris Markoff. Their target: Lex Luger, the Southern heavyweight champion. "We must show this American hero

Luger what Russian supremacy means!" said Markoff. "We got rid of Slaughter and now Luger will be the next to learn. You cannot take on a Russian and expect to win. That has been proven."



## PAMPERO FIRPO

The "Wild Bull of the Pampas," whose "kill, murder, and destroy" threat sent waves of fear through wrestlers everywhere, is now the California Championship Wrestling champion after a victory over Victor Rivera. "Any fool who chal-

lenges me must be prepared to have his legs torn off," said Firpo, who had to retire several years ago because of family problems. Firpo (shown in a recent photo) has at least cleaned up his act outside the ring.

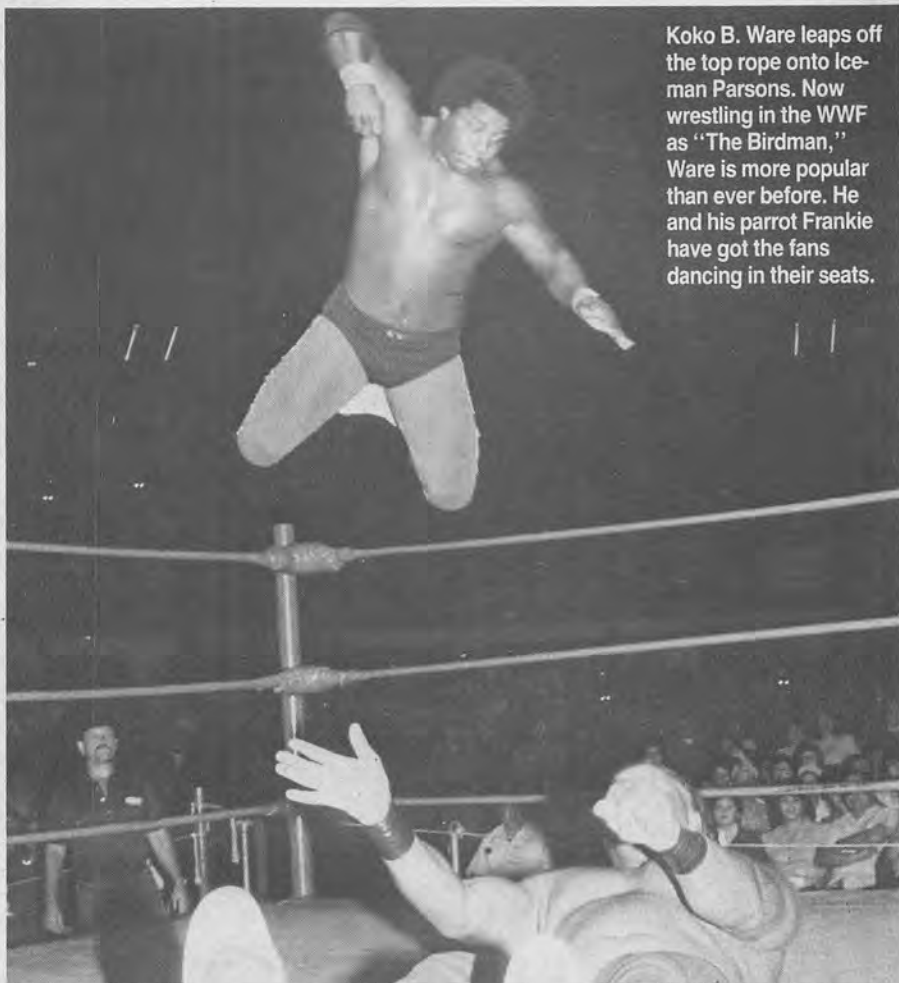
# INSIDE WRESTLING

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## CAPSULE PROFILE

### KOKO B. WARE

**T**HE UNION CITY, Tennessee, native has been wrestling professionally for eight years (*"Wrestling's all I ever really wanted to do"*)... Has one of the best dropkicks in the sport (*"It's my biggest weapon. I worked on it for a long, long time"*)... Technical wrestling abilities are far above average, and he is deceptively strong (*"If a guy's never wrestled me before, he might be in for a surprise"*)... Because he's only 5'9", Koko is somewhat handicapped by his size (*"Hey, size isn't that important. You know what they say, 'It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog'"*)... Shaved his head while wrestling in the Mid-Southern area in 1981 (*"I liked the way it felt, that's all"*)... Feuded extensively with Bill Dundee during that time, their most renowned battle coming on a 20-foot-high scaffold (*"Dundee is a tough man. We really had some war going there"*)... Also fought stars like Randy Savage, King Kong Bundy, and Rick Rude (*"I've gone up against the best in the sport"*)... Formed an excellent tag team called New Wave with Bobby Eaton of The Midnight Express in 1982, managed by Jimmy Hart (*"Bobby sees things a little different than I do, but he's still an outstanding wrestler. Don't talk to me about that wea-*



Koko B. Ware leaps off the top rope onto Ice-man Parsons. Now wrestling in the WWF as "The Birdman," Ware is more popular than ever before. He and his parrot Frankie have got the fans dancing in their seats.

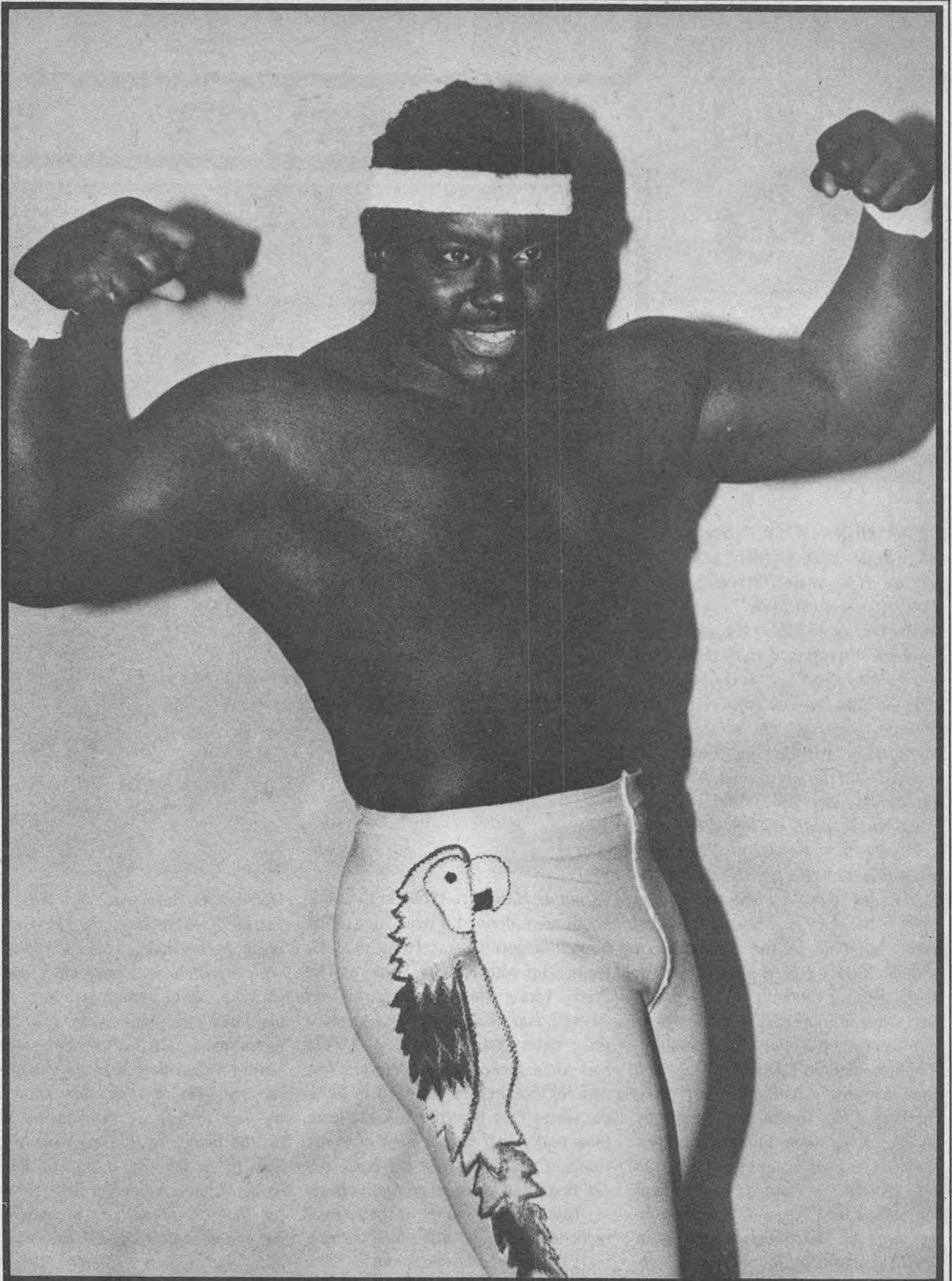
*sel Jimmy Hart")*... While in the Mid-South area, donned a mask and called himself Stagger Lee... From 1983-85, teamed up with Norvell Austin as The Pretty Young Things (*"Man, me and Norvell had it all together. What a great team that was!"*)... The PYTs had some success in the World Class and Mid-Southern areas, and in Florida, where they won the U.S. tag team titles under the management of Percy Pringle (*"Sure, we won the belts, but Ol' Percy tried to steal all my money"*)... Lost to Terry Gordy in the tournament to decide the first UWF champion (*"Gordy is one tough dude, man. He's like a buzzsaw"*)... Came to the WWF as The Birdman in the summer of 1986, and adopted a parrot named

Frankie as his mascot (*"Me and Frankie B. Ware know the WWF is the place to be, man. You can't beat it with a switch, you can't hit it with a stick"*)... Is becoming extremely popular with the fans, who enjoy his theme music and his infectious enthusiasm (*"When they hear my music and see my jukin', brother, they know it's the real thing"*)... Working his way up the ladder to title contention and may be in line for a shot at Randy Savage's Intercontinental belt (*"I'm after that championship committee to get me a match against the 'Macho Man,' but nobody's listenin'. The fans are gonna make 'em realize you can't hold The Birdman down for long. Watch out!"*)

□



## CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



**KOKO B. WARE**

# An Inside Wrestling Exclusive

## 10 CAN'T-MISS PROSPECTS...

### WHO DID!

With the luxury of hindsight, *Inside Wrestling* reviews the careers of 10 stars who should currently be labeled superstar. They either had their chance at greatness and missed, or they reached the pinnacle and let it all slide away. Their tales are sad ones, yet not hopeless. There still might be time for these men



King Kong Bundy



Billy Jack Haynes



Junkyard Dog



Humongous



Angelo Mosca Jr.



Tommy Rich



Bob Roop



Bruno Sammartino Jr.



Sgt. Slaughter



Sweet Brown Sugar

**E**VERY YEAR THERE are a half-dozen or so wrestlers who are marked for greatness. The scouting reports read like speeches at a testimonial dinner: "He's got all the skills, all the ability. Greatness is just a step away."

Some of these wrestlers take that extra step and realize their potential. Perhaps the best contemporary examples of this are The Road Warriors and Nikita Koloff. They burst upon the wrestling scene and threatened to take over the tag team and singles ratings, respectively. And less than two years after their debuts, they were able to do just that.

But each annual crop of promising grapplers also provides its share of disappointments, wrestlers who appear as if they would quickly rise to the top, but

fail to do so.

Plus there are the wrestlers who have been around for years, have had their shot at greatness, and simply failed to follow through on their potential. We offer no value judgments on the reasons why they failed to enjoy superstar status; sometimes personal business considerations or the rigors of nightly physical punishment mean more than any amount of monetary success or fan acclaim.

This special *Inside Wrestling* feature looks at 10 men who could have achieved the kind of fame enjoyed by Hulk Hogan, Rick Steamboat, Ric Flair, and others of their kind. And if there is any message implicit in this feature, it would be:

When opportunity knocks, you'd better answer the door.





Hulk Hogan backs King Kong Bundy into the tumbuckle at WrestleMania 2. That match seems to have demoralized Bundy.

**King Kong Bundy** seemed to be everywhere when WrestleMania 2 was exploding across the wrestling scene. It was Bundy who challenged WWF World champion Hulk Hogan in the steel cage at that extravaganza, and it seemed that rule of the WWF was only a pinfall away for the big man from Atlantic City. Bundy makes this list not because of his failure to defeat Hogan at WrestleMania 2, but for his total post-Wrestlemania 2 collapse. Bundy's determination evaporated—so much so that he has recently become an easy pinfall victim for, of all people, Kamala.



Billy Jack Haynes—blocking a forearm smash from Iron Mike Sharpe—never stays in one area long enough to establish himself.

**Billy Jack Haynes** has been a hot prospect in virtually every area of the country. In the four years since his 1982 debut, Haynes has wrestled in the Pacific Northwest, Florida, Texas, World

Championship, and WWF areas—some on two or three different occasions. His career, which by now should boast at least a brief world title reign, has simply been a seemingly endless series of departures from areas just when it seems he'd break through to the top. Is Billy Jack Haynes afraid of success?

**Humongous** became an awesome force in the Mid-South (now UWF) region in 1985. Shortly after his debut, Humongous became the centerpiece of the Mid-South, capturing the imagination of the fans and destroying opposition in the same fashion as The Road Warriors did in their first year. And just when Humongous had completed a



A devastating legdrop on Tony Falk was one move that made Humongous a big star in the Mid-South (now UWF) area. Who knows where he is today.

stellar rookie year, he disappeared. Where did he go? And why did he leave wrestling just as he was on the verge of greatness? To this day nobody knows the answers to those questions.

**Junkyard Dog**—what happened? He was a true hero in the Mid-South area. A man to be admired. A father figure to thousands of youngsters. A man who, had he stayed in that area, would rule the UWF today. And who, from that lofty position, could



Before joining the WWF, Junkyard Dog—pushing Nikolai Volkoff against the ropes—was looked up to as a hero. Now he's just another character.

only have seen his career improve. What is Junkyard Dog today? A barking, dancing, growling caricature of what he used to be. JYD is no longer a hero; he's simply a laughingstock.

**Angelo Mosca Jr.** was voted Rookie of the Year for 1983. A second generation star, Mosca Jr.'s future in the sport was assured. But almost as soon as the vote totals were in, this fiery young grappler disappeared from the scene. Perhaps the rigors of nightly competition were too much for him to handle. Perhaps life on the road was too exhausting and lonely. Whatever the reasons, a magnificent career was forfeited, and the fans have been denied the excellence of another fine young athlete.



For whatever reason, Angelo Mosca Jr., who has Don Kent in an armbar, left the sport before attaining the success that was expected of him.



Tommy Rich battles Buzz Sawyer in one of their many steel cage matches. That feud was largely responsible for Rich's downfall.

**Tommy Rich** may seem like a special case here. Indeed, Rich is a former NWA World champion. Why is it, then, that we say he's a "can't miss star who did"? Well, after Rich's brief (four-day) NWA reign ended in 1981, he lost all sense of direction with his career. He became bogged down in senseless and bloody feuds that drained him physically and emotionally. And for the past few years, he's been floundering in the Continental and Mid-Southern areas. Rich was for a time the most sought after man in the sport. He's far from that now.



Bob Roop (wrestling as Maha Singh) puts a nervehold on Carlos Colon. Although he was an amateur champion, Roop wasn't as successful as a pro.

**Bob Roop** was a sensational amateur grappler. He was a member of the 1968 U.S. Olympic team and an AAU All-America grappler from 1966 through 1969. He could have risen to the top of the sport like fellow amateur champions Jack Brisco and Bob

Backlund, both former world champions. Instead, Roop chose to be satisfied with opening bouts and middle-of-the-card matches. When it became clear his career was floundering, he joined Kevin Sullivan's cult and shaved half his head. Roop has always seemed like a man with no sense of where he wants to go in the sport, and that's cost him dearly. Recently, he managed Lex Luger to greatness; most recently, he stopped managing Luger and has quit the sport entirely. Too bad.

**Bruno Sammartino Jr.** has wrestled in the WWF, the AWA, and the NWA. But the word on Bruno Jr. is that he's too anxious.



Bruno Sammartino Jr. lifts Larry Zbyszko off the canvas, but hasn't been able to lift his own career to the level expected of him. Sure, he's a good grappler, but he's got to pay his dues. Just because his father is a legend doesn't automatically grant him repeated title matches. But when Bruno Jr. doesn't get those title matches, he moves on. Today, Bruno Jr. wrestles intermittently for several very small promotions. And it's a shame. If he had the patience to stick it out in a major area and climb the ladder of contention like other grapplers, he'd have been a major star today.

**Sgt. Slaughter** was a superstar. He had the wrestling world in the palm of his hand as the result of his feud with The Iron Sheik back in 1984. And sure, wrestlers lose popularity and move on in their careers—but no one has ever



In one of the most vicious feuds ever, Sgt. Slaughter smashes Iron Sheik in the neck. Slaughter has never been more popular than he was then.

experienced such an immediate nosedive in acclaim as did Slaughter. Why did this happen? Because Slaughter chose to leave the WWF at the height of his popularity and market himself as a doll and a celebrity as well as a wrestler. That was a big mistake that cost him dearly, and it didn't have to. Slaughter achieved what most of the stars in this article have not, but his shortsighted actions managed to take his own success away from him. That's the most tragic career misstep of all.



The masked Sweet Brown Sugar dropkicks Jos LeDuc. Despite all his potential, Sugar didn't take his place at the top of the sport.

**Sweet Brown Sugar** is the kind of wrestler promoters dream about. He's agile, athletic—in short, a great wrestler. So why isn't he high atop the ratings of a major federation? Why has he never been high atop the ratings of a major federation? We don't understand it, either. The sport is able to grant success to such diversely talented individuals as Andre the Giant, Ric Flair, Hulk Hogan, Dusty Rhodes, and Kerry Von Erch—why can't it accommodate a well-rounded athlete like Sweet Brown Sugar? □



# INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

## TOP 15

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**  
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
245, Sarasota, FL

- 4—**NIKITA KOLOFF**  
275, Moscow, Russia
- 5—**LEX LUGER**  
268, Chicago, IL
- 6—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**  
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 7—**KEVIN VON ERICH**  
239, Denton, TX

- 8—**JAKE ROBERTS**  
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 9—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 10—**TERRY GORDY**  
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 11—**BARRY WINDHAM**  
236, Sweetwater, TX

- 12—**JIMMY SNUKA**  
251, Fiji Islands
- 13—**PAUL ORNDORFF**  
253, Brandon, FL
- 14—**TULLY BLANCHARD**  
235, San Antonio, TX
- 15—**RODDY PIPER**  
231, Glasgow, Scotland

## NWA

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**NIKITA KOLOFF**  
275, Moscow, Russia
- 3—**TULLY BLANCHARD**  
235, San Antonio, TX

- 4—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 5—**LEX LUGER**  
268, Chicago, IL
- 6—**BARRY WINDHAM**  
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 7—**SAM HOUSTON**  
222, Waco, TX

- 8—**RONNIE GARVIN**  
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 9—**ARN ANDERSON**  
249, Minneapolis, MN
- 10—**THE BULLET**  
234, parts unknown
- 11—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**  
226, Marietta, GA

- 12—**RIP OLIVER**  
245, Tampa, FL
- 13—**RICK MORTON**  
228, Memphis, TN
- 14—**DICK MURDOCH**  
270, Waxahachie, TX
- 15—**CARLOS COLON**  
246, Bayamon, Puerto Rico

## AWA

- 1—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**  
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 2—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 3—**COL. DeBEERS**  
265, Cape Town, South Africa

- 4—**JIMMY SNUKA**  
251, Fiji Islands
- 5—**KEN TIMBS**  
235, Atlanta, GA
- 6—**SUPER NINJA**  
263, Japan
- 7—**BORIS ZUKHOV**  
254, Leningrad, Russia

- 8—**CURT HENNIG**  
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 9—**GREG GAGNE**  
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 10—**NINJA GO**  
238, Japan
- 11—**ALEXIS SMIRNOFF**  
269, Russia

- 12—**MR. SAITO**  
247, Japan
- 13—**EARTHQUAKE FERRIS**  
380, San Francisco, CA
- 14—**CRUSHER BLACKWELL**  
474, Stone Mountain, GA
- 15—**MASTER BLASTER**  
327, Bronx, NY

## WWF

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**  
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
245, Sarasota, FL
- 3—**JAKE ROBERTS**  
246, Stone Mountain, GA

- 4—**KAMALA**  
402, Uganda
- 5—**PAUL ORNDORFF**  
253, Brandon, FL
- 6—**RODDY PIPER**  
231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 7—**HERCULES HERNANDEZ**  
265, Tampa, FL

- 8—**TITO SANTANA**  
245, Toluca, Mexico
- 9—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**  
274, Sunset Beach, HI
- 10—**ADRIAN ADONIS**  
313, New York, NY
- 11—**KING KONG BUNDY**  
468, Atlantic City, NJ

- 12—**BILLY JACK HAYNES**  
245, Portland, OR
- 13—**HARLEY RACE**  
255, Kansas City, MO
- 14—**DICK SLATER**  
247, Pittsburgh, PA
- 15—**BUTCH REED**  
265, Kansas City, MO

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**  
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 3—**NIKITA KOLOFF**  
275, Moscow, Russia

- 4—**RODDY PIPER**  
231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 5—**LEX LUGER**  
268, Chicago, IL
- 6—**KEVIN VON ERICH**  
239, Denton, TX
- 7—**BARRY WINDHAM**  
236, Sweetwater, TX

- 8—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 9—**JIMMY SNUKA**  
251, Fiji Islands
- 10—**RICK STEAMBOAT**  
238, Honolulu, HI
- 11—**TERRY TAYLOR**  
225, Vero Beach, FL

- 12—**JERRY LAWLER**  
234, Memphis, TN
- 13—**RONNIE GARVIN**  
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 14—**STEVE SIMPSON**  
230, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 15—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**  
226, Marietta, GA

## MOST HATED

- 1—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
245, Sarasota, FL
- 2—**RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—**COL. DeBEERS**  
265, Cape Town, South Africa

- 4—**BRIAN ADIAS**  
238, Denton, TX
- 5—**PAUL ORNDORFF**  
253, Brandon, FL
- 6—**JAKE ROBERTS**  
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 7—**TULLY BLANCHARD**  
235, San Antonio, TX

- 8—**TERRY GORDY**  
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 9—**TOMMY RICH**  
242, Hendersonville, TN
- 10—**EDDIE GILBERT**  
222, Lexington, TN
- 11—**JIM GARVIN**  
235, Tampa, FL

- 12—**ADRIAN ADONIS**  
313, New York, NY
- 13—**RICK RUDE**  
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 14—**MICHAEL HAYES**  
255, Marietta, GA
- 15—**BLACK BART**  
261, Pampa, TX

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**  
No. 2 contenders to NWA World tag title
- 2—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**  
No. 1 contenders to NWA World tag title
- 3—**THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**  
WWF World tag team champions
- 4—**MANNY FERNANDEZ & RICK RUDE**  
NWA World tag team champions
- 5—**HACKSAW DUGGAN & TERRY TAYLOR**  
UWF tag team champions

- 6—**BARRY WINDHAM & RONNIE GARVIN**  
U.S. tag team champions
- 7—**THE FANTASTICS**  
No. 2 contenders to UWF tag team title
- 8—**THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS**  
No. 1 contenders to AWA tag team title
- 9—**RICK MARTEL & TOM ZENK**  
No. 3 contenders to WWF tag team title
- 10—**BRIAN ADIAS & AL MADRIL**  
World Class tag team champions

- 11—**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE & DOUG SOMERS**  
AWA World tag team champions
- 12—**THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**  
No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title
- 13—**THE KANSAS JAYHAWKS**  
No. 1 contenders to U.S. tag team title
- 14—**BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART**  
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title
- 15—**SEAN ROYAL & CHRIS CHAMPION**  
Florida tag team champions

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended January 1, 1987

# ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

- ALABAMA CHAMPION: TONY ANTHONY**  
(November 10, 1986; from Wendell Cooley; Birmingham, AL)
- ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**TAKASHI ISHIKAWA & MIGHTY INOUE**  
(October 31, 1986; from Isamu Teranishi & Animal Hamaguchi; Tokyo)
- ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**  
(October 21, 1986; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo)
- ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**RIKI CHOSHU & YOSHIKI YATSU**  
(February 5, 1986; from Jumbo Tsuruta & Tenryu; Osaka, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KUNIAKI KOBAYASHI**  
(November 23, 1986; from Hiro Saito; Tokyo)
- ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: GENICHIRO TENRYU**  
(April 26, 1986; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Omiya, Japan)
- ALL-PACIFIC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: LELANI KAI**  
(August 21, 1986; from Chika; Tokyo, Japan)
- AWA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP: SHERRI MARTEL**  
(June 28, 1986; from Candi Divine; Oakland, CA)
- AWA WORLD CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKEL**  
(June 29, 1986; awarded by default from Stan Hansen; Denver, CO)
- AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BUDDY ROSE & DOUG SOMERS**  
(May 17, 1986; from Scott Hall & Curt Hennig; Hammond, IN)
- \* **BAHAMAS CHAMPION: BAD NEWS ALLEN**  
(December 16, 1986; from The Falcon; Orlando, FL)
- BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: LES THORNTON**  
(September 19, 1986; from Johnny Smith; Calgary, Alberta)
- CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: DAVID SHULTZ**  
(November 3, 1986; forfeit from Great Samu; Montreal, Quebec)
- CANADIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SHEIK ALI & RICHARD CHARLAND**  
(October 13, 1986; from Dan Kroffat & Tom Zenk; Montreal, Quebec)
- CENTRAL STATES CHAMPION: SAM HOUSTON**  
(November 16, 1986; tournament final over Bill Dundee; St. Louis, MO)
- CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TODD CHAMPION & DAVE PETERSEN**  
(November 7, 1986; from Thunderfoot I & II; Kansas City, KS)
- \* **FLORIDA CHAMPION: RON SIMMONS**  
(December 2, 1986; from Kareem Muhammad; Tampa, FL)
- \* **FLORIDA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SEAN ROYAL & CHRIS CHAMPION**  
(December 25, 1986; tournament final over Kendall Windham & Victor Steamboat; Tampa, FL)
- INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING GRAND PRIX CHAMPION: ANTONIO INOKI**  
(June 19, 1986; tournament final over Dick Murdoch; Tokyo, Japan)
- IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**TATSUMI FUJINAMI & KENGO KIMURA**  
(September 23, 1986; from Osamu Kido & Akira Maeda; Tokyo)
- IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHIRO KOSHINAKA**  
(September 19, 1986; from Nobuhiko Takada; Fukuoka, Japan)
- JAPANESE WOMEN'S CHAMPION: YUKARI OMORI**  
(August 23, 1986; from Devil Masami; Kawasaki, Japan)
- JAPANESE WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**DUMP MATSUMOTO & BULL NAKANO**  
(August 23, 1986; from The Crush Girls; Kawasaki, Japan)
- MID-AMERICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Big Bubba)
- MID-ATLANTIC CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Ronnie Garvin)
- MID-SOUTHERN CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER**  
(September 8, 1986; from Bam Bam Bigelow; Memphis, TN)
- MID-SOUTHERN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: BIG BUBBA**  
(October 6, 1986; tournament final over Pat Tanaka; Memphis, TN)
- \* **MID-SOUTHERN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND**  
(December 13, 1986; from Aiko Sato & Tarzan Goto; Memphis, TN)
- \* **MID-SOUTHERN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE RPMs**  
(December 13, 1986; from Jeff Jarrett & Billy Travis; Memphis, TN)
- NWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DENNY BROWN**  
(September 1, 1986; from Steve Regal; Greenville, SC)
- NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS & DUSTY RHODES**  
(May 17, 1986; from Ivan & Nikita Koloff and Baron Von Raschke; Baltimore)
- \* **NWA TV CHAMPION: TULLY BLANCHARD**  
(November 27, 1986; from Dusty Rhodes; Greensboro, NC)
- NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR**  
(August 9, 1986; from Dusty Rhodes; St. Louis)
- NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MANNY FERNANDEZ & RICK RUDE**  
(December 6, 1986; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Atlanta)
- \* **PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: THE ASSASSIN**  
(November 29, 1986; from Rip Oliver; Portland, WA)
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MIKE MILLER & ABUGHADADIEN**  
(November 10, 1986; from Brady Boone & Rick Santana; Longview, WA)
- PWF CHAMPION: RIKI CHOSHU**  
(April 5, 1986; from Stan Hansen; Yokohama, Japan)
- PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STAN HANSEN & TED DIBIASE**  
(as mandated by PWF wrestling officials)
- SOUTHEAST CHAMPION: RIP ROGERS**  
(November 3, 1986; from Exotic adrian Street; Birmingham, AL)
- \* **SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL CHAMPION: THE BULLET**  
(December 8, 1986; from Kevin Sullivan; Birmingham, AL)
- SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**JERRY STUBBS & TONY ANTHONY**  
(November 15, 1986; tournament final over Nightmares; Knoxville, TN)
- SOUTHEAST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BULLET & STEVE ARMSTRONG**  
(October 6, 1986; from Robert Fuller & Jimmy Golden; Birmingham, AL)
- SOUTHEAST U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TOM PRITCHARD**  
(November 10, 1986; from Roy Welch; Birmingham, AL)
- SOUTHERN CHAMPION: LEX LUGER**  
(July 29, 1986; from Masked Superstar; Tampa, FL)
- U.S. CHAMPION: NIKITA KOLOFF**  
(August 17, 1986; best-of-seven final over Magnum T.A.; Charlotte, NC)
- (September 28, 1986; unification victory over National heavyweight champion Wahoo McDaniel; Atlanta, GA)
- \* **U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BARRY WINDHAM & RONNIE GARVIN**  
(December 9, 1986; from Ivan Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev; Spartanburg, SC)
- UWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ONE MAN GANG**  
(November 11, 1986; awarded by Terry Gordy's default; Tulsa, OK)
- \* **UWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TERRY TAYLOR & HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
(December 27, 1986; from Leroy Brown & Bill Irwin; Ft. Worth, TX)
- UWF TV CHAMPION: SAVANNAH JACK**  
(November 11, 1986; from Buddy Roberts; Tulsa, OK)
- WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: KEVIN VON ERICH**  
(October 12, 1986; from Black Bart; Dallas, TX)
- WORLD CLASS SIX-MAN CHAMPIONS: KEVIN, LANCE, & MIKE VON ERICH**  
(May 4, 1986; from The Fabulous Freebirds; Irving, TX)
- \* **WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRIAN ADIAS & AL MADRIL**  
(December 1, 1986; from Lance Von Erich & Dingo Warrior; Ft. Worth, TX)
- \* **WORLD CLASS TV CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS**  
(December 1, 1986; from Crusher Yorkof; Ft. Worth, TX)
- WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: BUZZ SAWYER**  
(July 4, 1986; from Brian Adias; Dallas, TX)
- WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: THE FABULOUS MOOLAH**  
(November 25, 1985; from Wendi Richter; New York)
- WORLD WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN**  
(August 1985; from Desiree Petersen & Velvet McIntyre; Egypt)
- WWC JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: INVADER III**  
(November 9, 1986; from Don Kent; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Al Perez)
- WWC NORTH AMERICAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**MIGUEL PEREZ JR. & HURRICANE CASTILLO**  
(November 9, 1986; from Chicky & Ron Starr; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: INVADER I**  
(June 29, 1986; from Eric Embry; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RON & CHICKY STARR**  
(October 5, 1986; from The RPMs; Caguas, Puerto Rico)
- WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON**  
(September 21, 1986; tournament final over Terry Funk; San Juan, PR)
- WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: RANDY SAVAGE**  
(February 8, 1986; from Tito Santana; Boston)
- WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN**  
(January 23, 1984; from The Iron Sheik; New York)
- WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**  
(April 7, 1986; from Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake; Rosemont, IL)



# BARRY WINDHAM

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## STAMPEDING BACK TO THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT!



*Photos by Len McCalister*

***It's taken some time, but Barry Windham is finally ready to tackle the challenge of NWA World Champion Ric Flair. The young Texan has returned to the World championship area and has big things on his mind***

---

**B**ACK IN 1983, Barry Windham was one of the top wrestlers in Florida. But he was not ready for NWA World champion Ric Flair.

That was the consensus of the editorial board of *Inside Wrestling*, which unanimously agreed in the September 1983 issue that "Barry Windham Must Stop Wrestling Ric Flair."

Managing Editor Stu Saks said at the time that "While Windham obviously is a wrestler of vast skills and has the potential to become a world champion, he has proved that he doesn't yet have the experience to overcome Flair." And the late Dan Shocket said: "Windham should give up wrestling Flair for the title and try to put his own career in order first. Only by becoming the kind

of wrestler that creates success rather than waiting for success to happen can Windham ever hope to achieve that success."

Well, Barry Windham has finally arrived—not only in the World Championship area, but at a crossroads in his career where the *only* proper move is to go after Ric Flair and the NWA World title. Three-and-a-half years later, Windham is finally ready for Flair. The Texas cowboy is stampeding back into the national spotlight.

The move had been coming for months, but on December 1, 1986, it became official: Barry Windham left Florida and came to the World Championship area. The reason was simple. Back in 1983, Windham was in Florida and frequently wrestled Flair. But for the past year, his shots at the

World title were few and far between. The irony is that back in 1983, Windham wasn't ready. Now he is.

So, as cowboys are prone to do, he took the bull by the horns. Windham got on his high horse and rode off into the Florida sunset and headed off to face his career.

Windham made one slight detour on the road to the eventual showdown with Flair. Nine days after coming to the World Championship area, Windham and Ronnie Garvin made a stop in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and won the United States tag team belts from Krusher Khrushchev and Ivan Koloff.

It was an impressive performance by Windham. Barry fought  
*(Continued on page 58)*



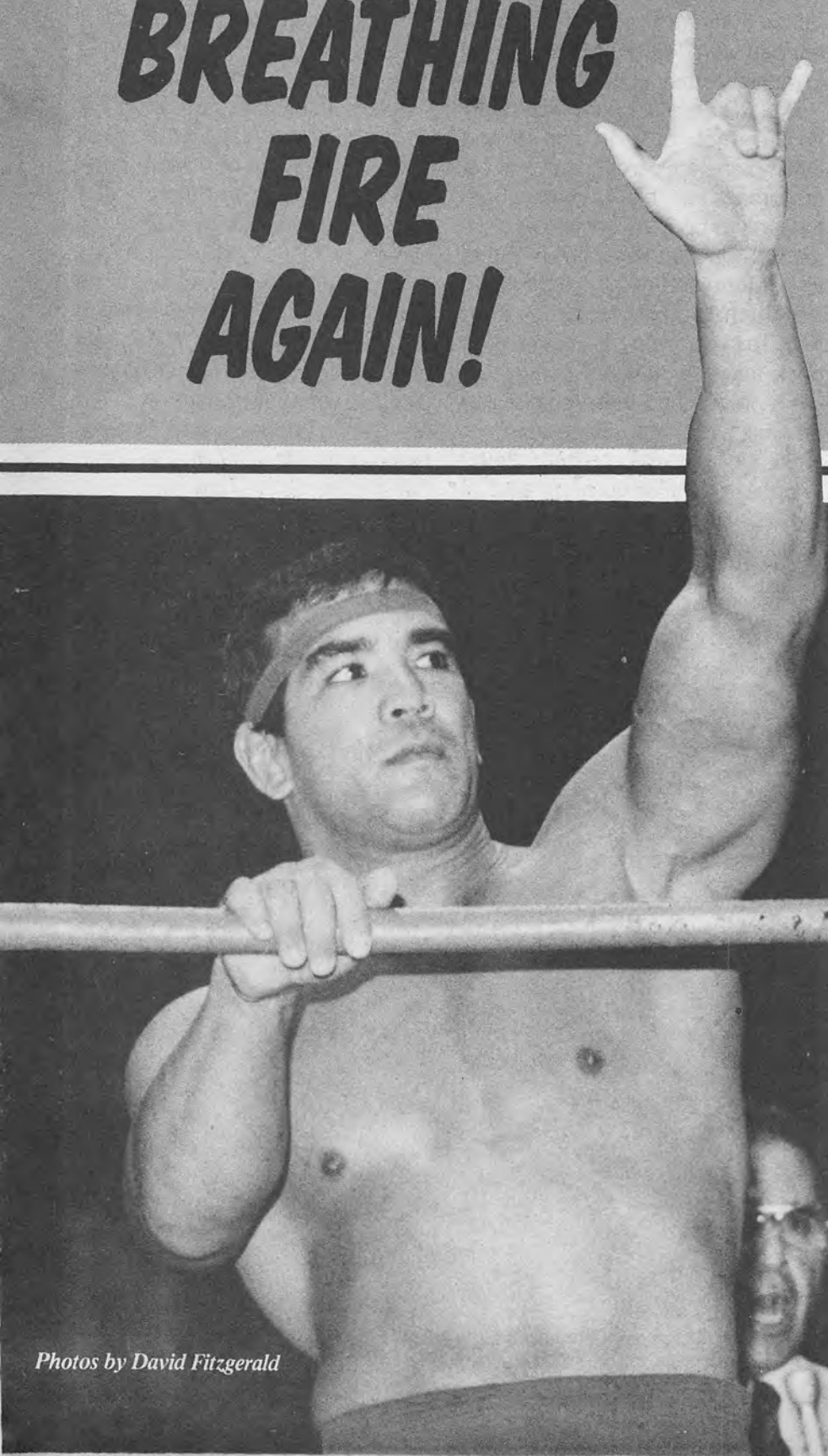
Now that he and Ron Garvin have won the U.S. tag team championship, Barry Windham—holding Krusher Khrushchev on the mat—is in a position to contend for the big prize: Ric Flair's NWA World title.



# RICK STEAMBOAT

## THE DRAGON IS BREATHING FIRE AGAIN!

*Intercontinental champion Randy Savage believed he had eliminated Rick Steamboat from title contention with his brutal assault in October. But The Dragon's throat is healing, and fire is again coming from his mouth. We might soon find out how macho "The Macho Man" is*

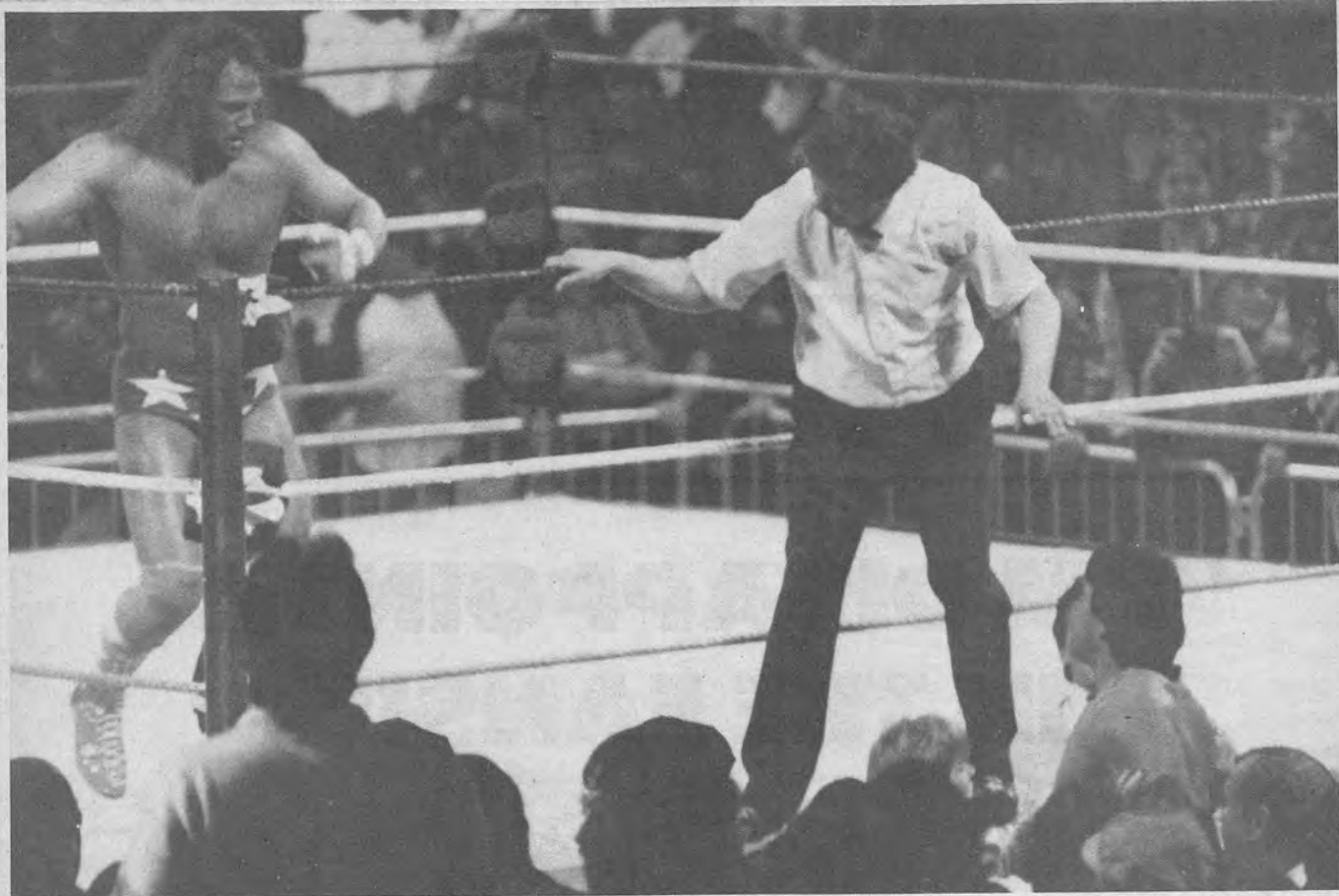


*Photos by David Fitzgerald*

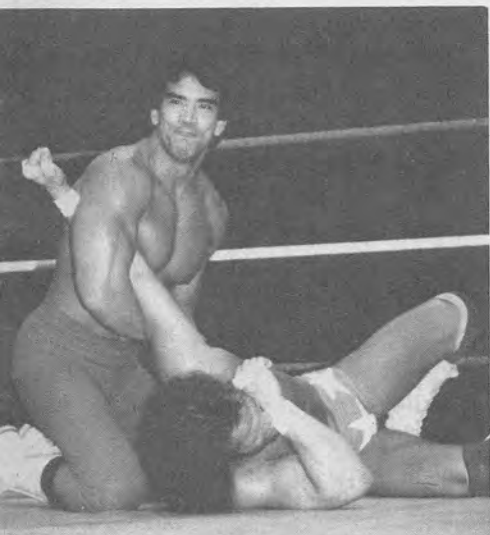
**R**ICK STEAMBOAT DREAMS a lot these days. He dreams about blood and broken bones and he sees Randy Savage lying on the side of the ring, unable to move, Elizabeth kneeling over her fallen man with tears streaming from her eyes. Rick Steamboat dreams about showing Randy Savage that he can't get away with everything. He can't get away with what he did October 28, 1986.

*Binghamton, NY; Broome County Arena:* Steamboat challenges Savage for the Intercontinental title, and a great match turns into a vicious brawl outside the ring. Savage picks up Steamboat and drops him, neck-first, onto the steel railing. Gagged and gasping for air, Steamboat is lying on the floor, but Savage isn't finished.

He picks up Steamboat, puts him face down on the rail, and dives down from the top rope onto his foe. Savage then drags Steamboat into the ring, picks up the ringside bell, and comes crashing down on his throat from the top rope. Steamboat is brought by stretcher to an ambulance and is taken to the hospital. Later, in the dressing room, Savage brags about what he did.



Rick "The Dragon" Steamboat shocked everyone when he confronted Randy "Macho Man" Savage at a recent *Saturday Night's Main Event* (above). The neck and throat injuries inflicted upon Steamboat by Savage were expected to keep The Dragon out for much longer. Before his injury, Steamboat has Savage down in an armbar (left) and rubs his face against the ropes (below).

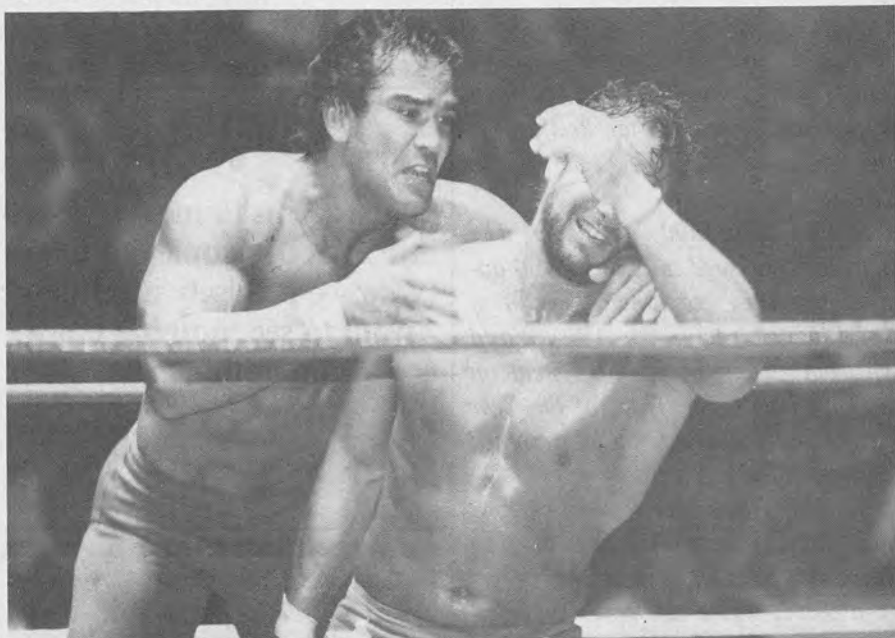


The injury report: Steamboat has suffered serious neck and throat injuries. There's a good chance that he will never wrestle again. The wrestling world is shocked. Steamboat's wife, Bonnie, makes numerous appearances on WWF television programs and demands that something be done to Savage. She wants revenge, but will her husband ever have that chance?

Now, Steamboat has his answer. Justice will be done.

\*\*\*

Randy Savage is having a nightmare. It must be. It can't be real.



*Hartford, CT; Hartford Civic Center:* A sellout crowd is on hand for the December 14 taping of NBC-TV's *Saturday Night's Main Event*. Savage is wrestling George "The Animal" Steele on the undercard. Savage and Elizabeth are first in the ring, and then The Animal enters with a doll of himself.

He gives the doll to Elizabeth, but Savage grabs it and tosses it aside.

Steele quickly gains the upper hand and makes a hand signal in the direction of the dressing room. The crowd roars and Rick Steamboat emerges, then runs into the ring to attack Sav-

(Continued on page 62)



# HOTSEAT

## PAUL ELLERING:

### "I'M DISAPPOINTED IN THE FANS!"

**W**HEN THE ROAD WARRIORS burst on the wrestling scene in 1983, wrestling fans were stunned. Never before had they seen such a combination of power and strength, of animal ferocity and killer instinct. Behind the guiding force of Paul Ellering, the Warriors captured the Georgia National tag team belts and honors as 1983's Tag Team of the Year.

In 1984, things only got better. The Warriors continued to obliterate all opposition. They captured their first world tag team title—the AWA World tag team championship—and went on to claim 1984's Tag Team of the Year honors. Paul Ellering was also named Manager of the Year.

In 1985, Hawk and Animal claimed their third consecutive title as Tag Team of the Year, but it can be argued that it was a title based on reputation rather than achievement. Ellering finished a close third in the Manager of the Year voting.

1986, however, was a different story for Hawk, Animal, and Ellering. Serious questions were raised about the Warriors having lost their killer instinct. Despite repeated opportunities,

*Hawk and Animal were unable to capture the NWA World tag team belts. And the domination of the Tag Team of the Year award was broken when the Warriors were edged out by The Rock 'n' Roll Express.*

“

**It just seems to me that there are a lot of people out there who see precisely what they want to see, nothing more and nothing less.**

”

*Associate Editor Craig Peters interviewed Ellering in Atlanta recently to discuss the status of The Legion of Doom, and where Ellering would like to guide the Warriors in 1987.*

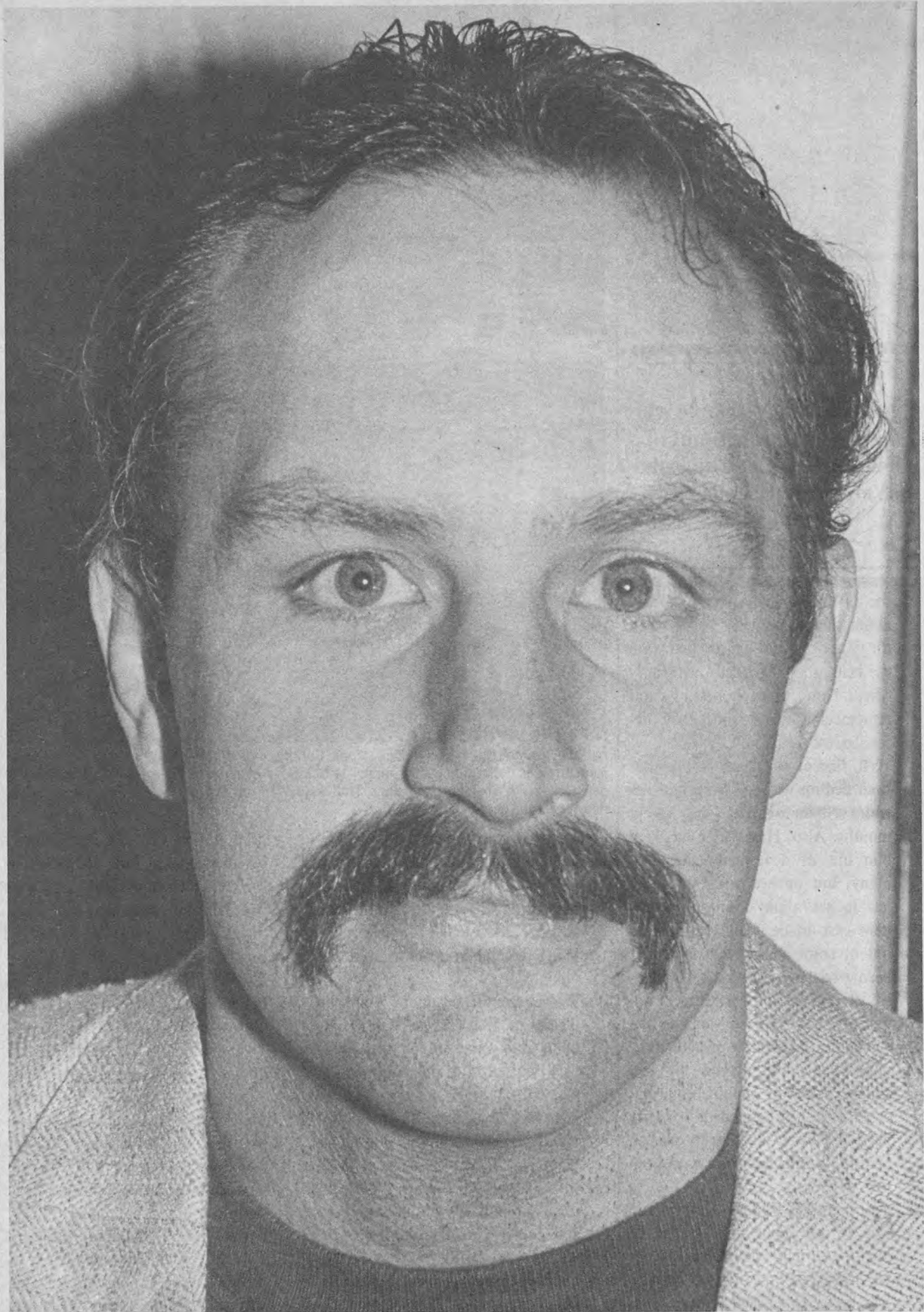
**Q:** Tag Team of the Year in 1983, '84, and '85. In '86—well, nothing. People are saying that the dynasty has collapsed. What do you say?

**A:** I say nonsense. You know, I want to say right from the start that I'm disappointed in the fans. All I'm hearing is that The Road Warriors have lost their killer instinct, The Road Warriors have failed to win titles, The Road Warriors are not what they were two years ago.

**Q:** But you have to admit, Paul, that the Warriors . . .

**A:** Look, does anyone say how fearless Hawk has been for wrestling with a broken leg in a series of scaffold matches against The Midnight Express? Does anyone look back to how well Hawk and Animal wrestled as singles this summer in the Great American Bash series? Does anyone recall that Hawk and Animal hold the NWA World six-man title with Dusty Rhodes? I'm disappointed in the fans. It just seems to me that there are a lot of people out there who see precisely what they want to see, nothing more and nothing less. I would much prefer that they see things for what they are, and not how they would like to believe that they are.

**Q:** Since you brought up the issue of







**“  
I get annoyed by people who  
take the opposite point of  
view and say that The Road  
Warriors have collapsed.  
It's ridiculous.  
”**

the NWA six-man title, let's talk about that a moment. Now, when the Warriors and Dusty first won the belts, they defended them fairly often. Now, to be honest, I can't remember the last time they defended the belts.

**A:** Well, first of all, Dusty Rhodes has been tied up with tag team matches with Nikita Koloff in recent months. Also, Hawk's leg has kept him out of a few matches. Not many, but once a week or so he has to see a physician to have a new cast made. That keeps him out of some matches. Animal has been wrestling some singles matches. Plus we recently wrestled in Japan for six weeks. So you see, it is sometimes difficult to get all three men together to defend the belt against a trio of suitable challengers. But it has happened; I simply have to look at my files to tell you precisely when, but there have been title defenses.

**Q:** You mentioned Nikita Koloff, and I'm curious about your opinion of Nikita teaming with Dusty. After all, the Warriors and the Koloffs had quite a war last year.



As Road Warrior Hawk tries to kick Dennis Condrey to the mat, Animal chases Bobby Eaton across the scaffold during their match at Starrcade (above). In one of their infrequent title defenses, NWA six-man champions The Road Warriors and Dusty Rhodes charge to the ring (opposite page).

**A:** Yes we did, and I'm not completely convinced of Nikita's sincerity, although I must admit I was impressed when he clotheslined Krusher Khrushchev on television.

**Q:** Why aren't you convinced of Nikita's sincerity?

**A:** We've seen it so many times in recent months, haven't we? Certainly the most notable example was Paul Orndorff playing possum with Hulk Hogan. In that case, to analyze it objectively for just a moment, I think Orndorff played his hand just a bit too early. Had he waited, perhaps, another two or three months, he might have been able to take the title from Hogan. As it was, Orndorff came close, but Hogan managed to take up the slack very quickly. Timing is every-

thing. And I have to wonder whether Nikita isn't thinking the same way Orndorff did during the entire Hogan situation.

**Q:** So you would tell Dusty to beware of Nikita?

**A:** I would say to anyone: Never believe anything absolutely. There is always another side to a story, another point of view that you have not seen or thought of before. Again, that brings us full circle. That is why I get annoyed by people who take the absolute point of view and say that the Warriors have collapsed. It's ridiculous.

**Q:** But do you . . .

**A:** Excuse me a moment, Craig, I want to pursue this point just a bit further, because I feel it's very important. I'd like to offer a financial

analogy to what we're talking about. In the stock market, the smart investor rides the market the way . . . well, the way a surfer might ride a wave. Buy when the market is low, ride the tide as it rises, sell at a higher price, wait until the market falls, and begin the cycle once more. It's almost like breathing, in and out, inhale and exhale. It's in the natural order of things, and the intelligent investor doesn't cry wolf when the market begins to fall. So it is with The Legion of Doom right now. There's a natural exhaling process that has occurred that has caused fans—and certain journalists, I might add—to cry that we've lost our killer instinct, that we've gone soft. That's simply ridiculous.

**Q:** Okay, I think I understand what you're saying. Now as you look ahead to 1987, what kinds of plans do you have for The Legion of Doom?

**A:** As you well know, Craig, I will not discuss specifics. Generally speaking, however, I have several alternatives I am considering. Number one in my consideration, of course, is the NWA World tag team championship. Secondly, I'm looking at the possibility of splitting the team up for a time to dethrone Ric Flair; both Hawk and Animal performed superlatively at

the Bash series. In a tertiary sense, I feel that to reestablish our position in the eyes of the fans is an important goal, although that is certainly the least of our worries. When the fans stop complaining about what they think has happened to us and look at the team objectively, they'll see that we're as strong and as determined as ever.

**Q:** What about the U.S. tag team title?

**A:** That, of course, is a possibility, but I can tell you with certainty that the NWA World belts are our primary concern.

**Q:** Will you be touring Japan again?

**A:** Absolutely. Tag team tournaments are a mainstay of wrestling in Japan, and Hawk and Animal have done extremely well in their tournament appearances thus far. Which brings us to the second annual Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament in Baltimore in April.

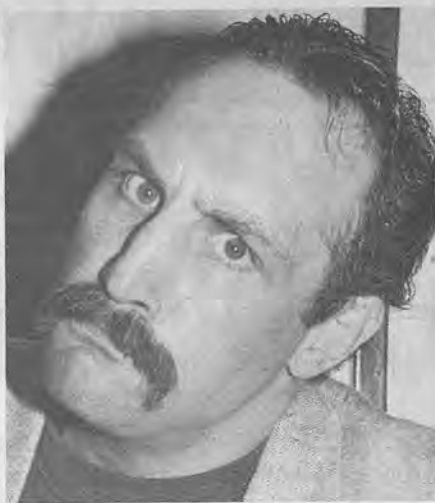
**Q:** In which the Warriors will be defending champions.

**A:** Yes. Another fact that these so-called critical fans are forgetting. And the Warriors will be champions again at the Crockett Cup.

**Q:** You say "so-called critical fans."

**A:** Yes, well a critical mind wouldn't say the things that these fans are saying.

**Q:** To get back to the 1986 Tag Team



“

**I can tell you with certainty that the NWA World belts are our primary concern.**

”

of the Year award for a moment, I understand that Hawk and Animal were quite upset when they heard they didn't win.

**A:** What do you mean by "quite upset"?

**Q:** Well, let me phrase it another way. How did they react when they learned that they weren't voted Tag Team of The Year?

**A:** Understandably, they were disappointed . . .

**Q:** Outraged, I heard.

**A:** Well, when you've come to expect something as your birthright, when you've had something for three years running, there's going to be disappointment when that something doesn't come your way. But I guarantee this: The activities of The Legion of Doom in 1987 will guarantee that Hawk and Animal receive that accolade from the fans for a fourth time in five years.

**Q:** And what of the Manager of the Year Award.

**A:** *Tout vient a temps pour qui sait attendre.*

**Q:** Which means?

**A:** All comes in time to him who knows how to wait. □





# Universal Wrestling Frustration:

## WHY HACKSAW DUGGAN CAN'T WIN THE BIG ONES!

**I**F THERE WAS a dog in the room, Hacksaw Jim Duggan would have kicked it, but instead, he takes his anger out on a chair. Many chairs. He flings them across the room, narrowly missing the head of a nervous Ted DiBiase. He heads for a wooden stall in front of Terry Taylor's locker and, using just some of his awesome strength, pulls the legs apart and deposits the remains on the floor.

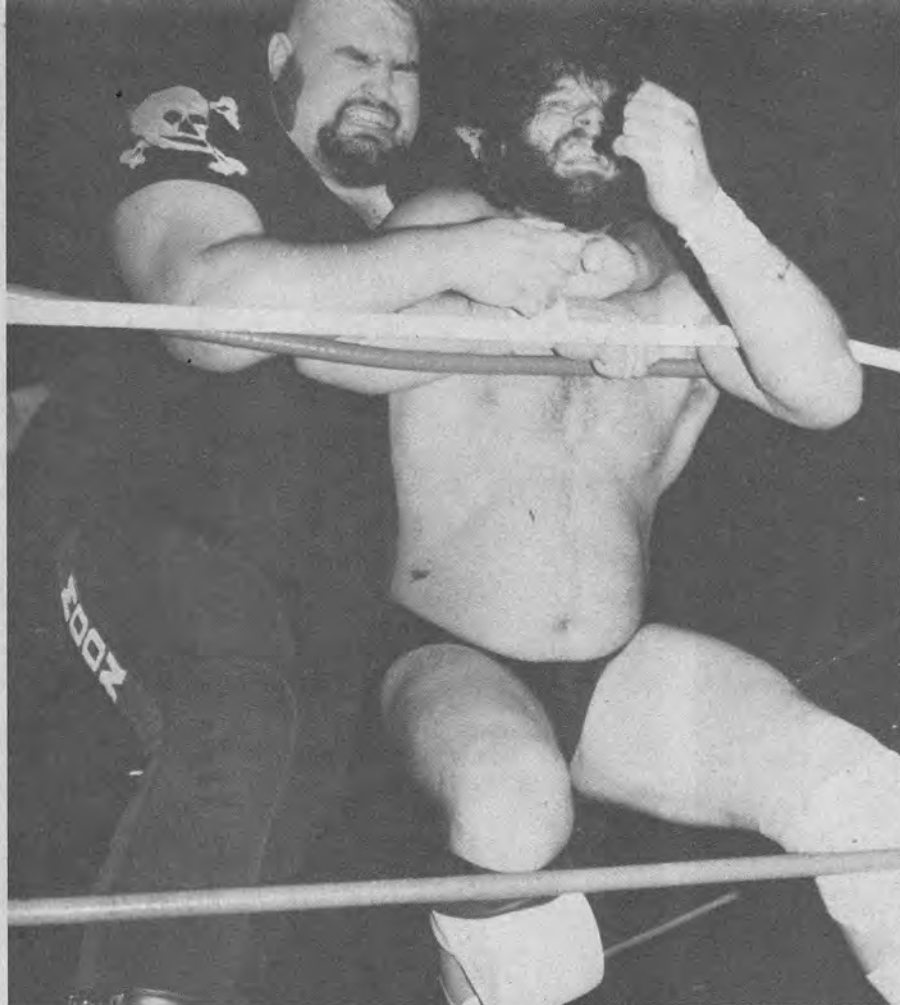
The big man from Glens Falls, New York, has an undefeated record against chairs.

Hacksaw Duggan had just returned to the dressing room after another match against Universal Wrestling Federation champion One Man Gang, another match that ended when Gen. Skandor Akbar interfered, causing his champion the match yet protecting his championship. Another title shot down the drain.

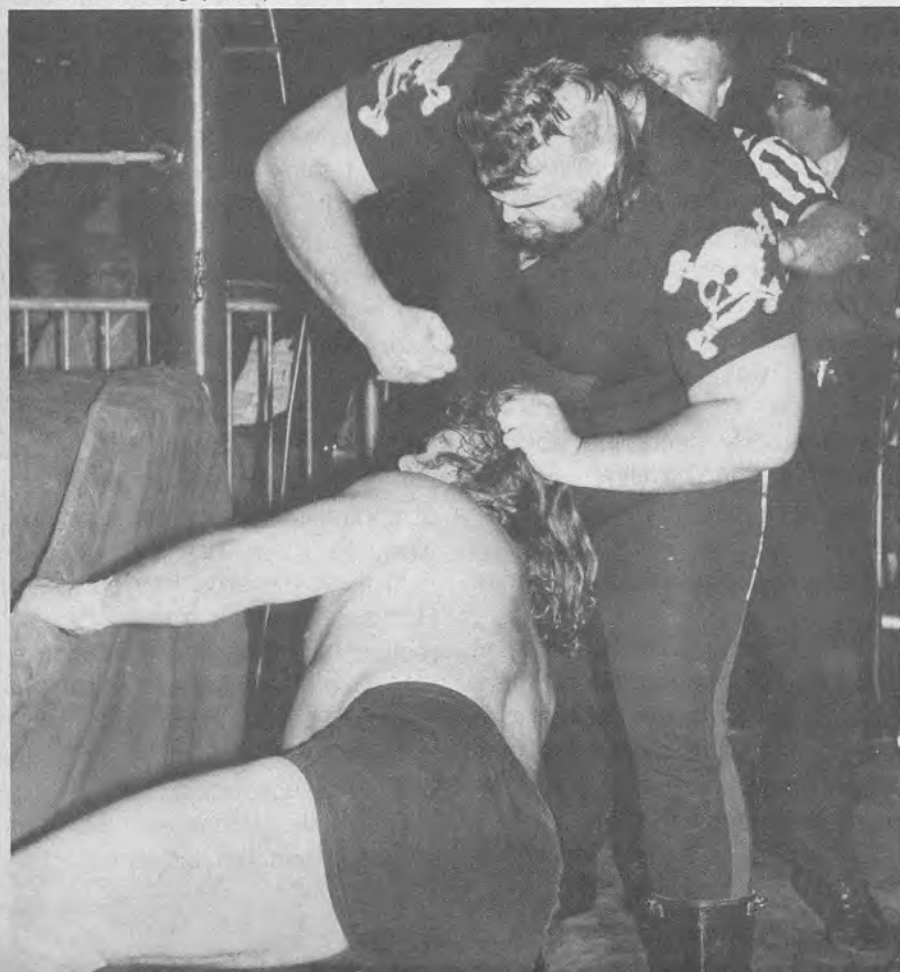
That's the way it has been for Hacksaw Duggan. Almost every time he wrestles One Man Gang, Duggan dominates from start to finish, but the result is always the same: either Duggan makes a mistake and gets himself disqualified, or One Man Gang gets disqualified. Either way, Duggan returns to the dressing room without the UWF belt around his waist



**Few people will deny that Hacksaw Jim Duggan is one of the most talented men in all of wrestling. Awesome and determined, he should have a title belt around his waist. Just why doesn't he, then? *Inside Wrestling* has the answers, and they just might startle a few people—Duggan included!**



Although he is a far better technical wrestler than One Man Gang, Hacksaw Jim Duggan hasn't gained a clear victory over him since Gang won the UWF title. Gang chokes Duggan against the ropes (above) and takes a piece out of Hacksaw's skull as he struggles to get back into the ring (below).



and vents his anger against the poor, defenseless furniture.

"Funny," Duggan must think. "I never had this much trouble with One Man Gang *before* he was champion."

\*\*\*

Choke. The word strikes fear into the hearts of professional athletes. Almost all of them have had to deal with pressure at one time or another. Many, like Ray Knight and Mookie Wilson in the sixth game of the 1986 World Series, have dealt positively with pressure. And others, like Bob Stanley and Calvin Schiraldi of the forever choking Boston Red Sox, could not take it.

It has been suggested that Hacksaw Duggan, for all his size (6'3", 280 pounds) and skill (he's number three in the UWF ratings) chokes in the big matches. Nobody would suggest that Duggan lacks heart, but the ol' ticker seems to skip a beat or two in clutch situations.

"It's pretty obvious that when the going gets tough, Hacksaw just loses control," said one wrestler, a friend of Duggan's who requested that his name be withheld. "I've seen situations where Hacksaw had One Man Gang on the ropes, but what does he do? He turns to the fans, and lets them cheer him, and gives Gang a chance to get back into the match. That's not how championships are won, buddy. You win the match, then you soak in the glory."

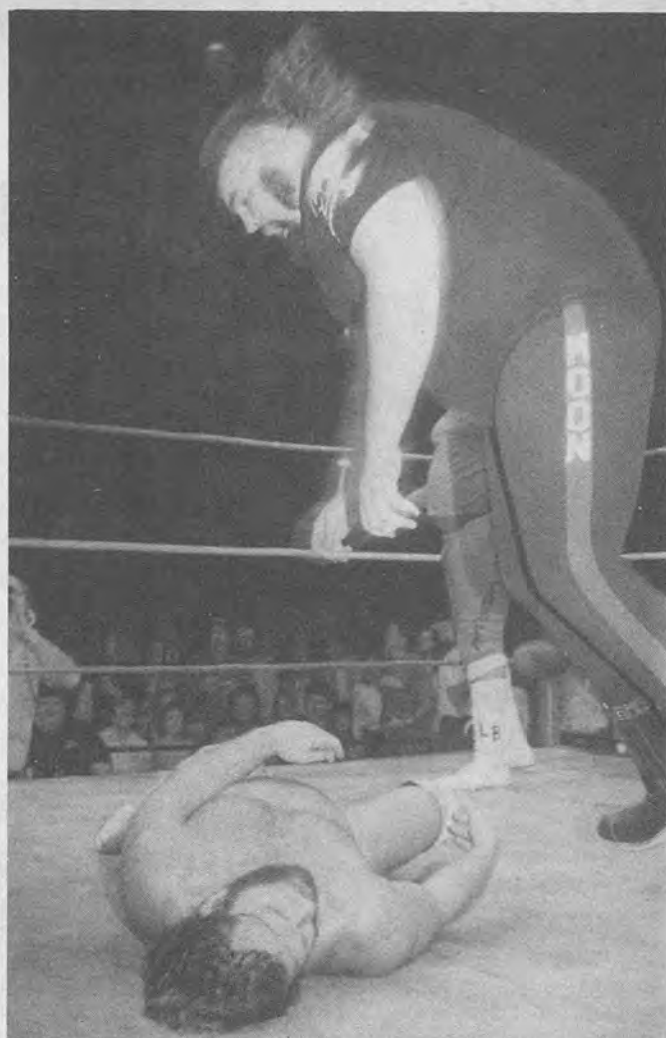
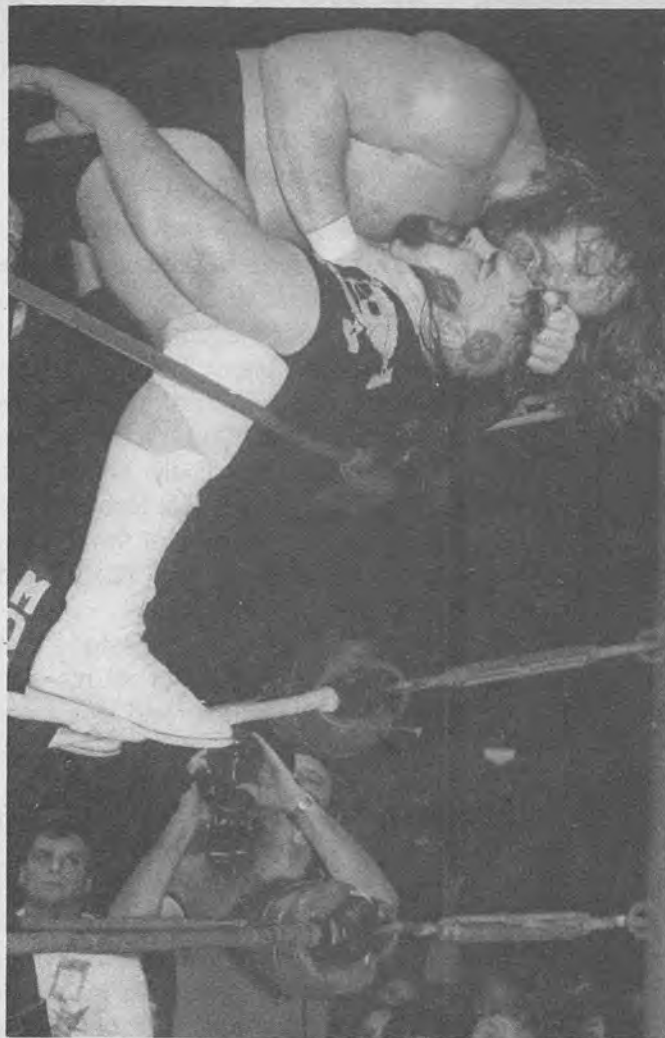
C-H-O-K-E. It spells Hacksaw Jim Duggan.

\*\*\*

Choking is only one reason why Duggan can't win the big ones. Another reason might be his lack of a manager. In an area like the UWF, almost anything goes and wrestlers are constantly subjected to sneak-attacks. The wrestlers are rough and rugged in the UWF and will do anything to win a title.

Since Mid-South wrestling became the UWF in early 1986, there have been two champions,





Duggan bites Gang (above left), but Gang comes back and lets fly with his "747" bodysplash (above right). OMG attacked Duggan before he had a chance to wrestle Terry Gordy in the UWF championship tournament.

Terry Gordy and One Man Gang. Gordy won his title by defeating Duggan in the final of the first tournament for the UWF championship, but he had One Man Gang to thank.

With the help of manager Skandor Akbar, Gang attacked Duggan before the match and used a chair to inflict a deep wound on Hacksaw's forehead. Afterward, Gordy easily beat Duggan.

Gordy was scheduled to wrestle twice on November 9, first in a six-man tag team match and then in a title match against Gang. Gordy tore ligaments in his right arm during the tag match and had to forfeit the title to Gang. His partner, Freebird leader Michael

Hayes, filed an official protest, but the title change would not be overturned.

Hayes, of course, is not Gordy's manager; he does not direct the man's career. Would a manager have allowed Gordy to wrestle twice in the same evening? Akbar only scheduled Gang for one match that evening. By no means was this the work of a genius. It was simple common sense.

It is quickly becoming obvious that winning in the UWF is much easier with a manager than without one. As Dear Abby might say, get counseling, Hacksaw Duggan.

\*\*\*

"Sometimes, Hacksaw just goes out of his mind and there isn't a man in the world that can stop him," said Taylor. "He gets himself really pumped up for title matches and by the time he enters the ring, he's just a bundle of

energy ready to explode. Unfortunately, he usually explodes in the middle of the match and his game plan is wasted. Enthusiasm and intensity is great, but sometimes I think Hacksaw would be better off if he stayed a little more under control."

*Pro Wrestling Illustrated* "Scouting Report," on Hacksaw Duggan, May 1986: "Lack of self-control in big matches. Tends to get disqualified too often in title opportunities." More specifically, "His war against Akbar has raged out of control for nearly three years." Now, it's more than four years.

"I think the time has come for Hacksaw to think about what direction he's going in," said Steve "Dr. Death" Williams. "Akbar absolutely drives him crazy, but that's what that idiot is trying to do. He's succeeding, too."

Obviously. Hacksaw Duggan still can't win the big ones. □

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**The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One**

**I**T IS PROBABLY safe to assume that Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka and Col. DeBeers will not be exchanging Valentine's Day cards this year.

DeBeers did his best to eliminate Snuka from wrestling in October, and the fact that he failed does not change the way these two men feel about each other. Snuka was wrestling Larry Zbyszko in Las Vegas when DeBeers ran to the ring and knocked The Superfly off the ropes as he was preparing to deliver a flying bodypress. DeBeers then dragged Snuka to the floor and rendered his rival a bloody mess with a face-first piledriver. DeBeers then fled the scene.

The attack placed Snuka in the hospital for several weeks, during which DeBeers gloated to fans, fellow wrestlers, and the press.

But DeBeers never liked Snuka very much anyway. A staunch supporter of apartheid, the South African policy of racial segregation, DeBeers views Snuka (a non-white) as an impurity in the human race. Indeed, DeBeers feels he is doing the world a favor by eliminating Snuka.

Snuka, however, is not so easily eliminated. The Superfly was out of the hospital by Christmas, ready to wage war against the vicious South African.

# ONE ON ONE



*"There are terrible corners of hell reserved for your kind, DeBeers, reserved for men who allow hate to rule their lives."*

—Jimmy Snuka

It took *Inside Wrestling* several weeks of intense negotiations to bring DeBeers and Snuka together to discuss their differences "One on One." The reticence was primarily on DeBeers' part; Snuka agreed to the conversation immediately. The transcript of their phone call follows:

**COL. DeBEERS:**

Well, here you are again, Fiji scum. You just don't seem to understand that your type isn't welcome around here, so maybe I just better try speaking so you'll understand: Soon you be lying in your grave dead because I be breaking your skull till coffin where you at. Get down, Negro!

**JIMMY SNUKA:**

Get lost, idiot! You know, DeBeers, I don't know what life is like in South Africa, but here in the United States of America we don't let no race, color, or creed judge a man. You are a very bigoted, narrow-minded, hateful person, DeBeers, and I feel sorry for you. I really do, my man, I pity you for your ignorance.

**CD:** Very good, Snuka! Four sentences in a row, a new Negro record! You're very narrow-minded, though, Snuka. People in the United States regard Negroes the same way we do in South Africa, they're just too hypocritical to admit it. You walk down the street in this country and people say, "There goes another Negro

# N ONE



*"The white man was born with a superior brain. You and your brothers are walking around with the minds of retarded chimpanzees."*

—Col. DeBeers

on the loose." The only difference is that in my country we have the foresight to keep your kind under control.

**JS:** Hindsight is more like it, DeBeers, because you're nothing but an ass. There are terrible corners of hell reserved for your kind, DeBeers, reserved for men who allow hate to rule their lives.

**CD:** You're no different, Snuka. Since the day I sent you into the hospital I've had a little time to check out your wrestling record. It seems as if you've made a career out of wrestling white men, Snuka, so you tell me who the racist is. Go ahead, Snuka, defend yourself.

**JS:** Brudder, you are a sick man. I have wrestled S.D. Jones, I have

teamed with Rocky Johnson, I am a close friend of Tony Atlas. Listen, DeBeers, the fact of the matter is that most men in wrestling are white, but if a black opponent or partner presents himself, or a black man wants to be a friend, I will not spit in his face, as you would do. You would judge a man on the color of his skin, not on the depth of his soul. That is why you are a sick man.

**CD:** And this is why you are a Negro, Snuka, although you claim to be from the Fiji Islands. You just don't seem to understand what I'm saying. Admit it, Snuka, you're here to eliminate the white man. I'm here to eliminate the black men. Except the white man

was born with a superior brain. You and your brothers, as you call them, are walking around with the minds of retarded chimpanzees.

**JS:** I do not try to eliminate anyone, I try to wrestle the best I can in every match, no matter who the opponent may be. I make no judgment on the basis of skin color, but I do make judgments on the basis of attitude, DeBeers, and your attitude, your hatred, is like a disease that must be eliminated before it progresses too far.

**CD:** That's going to be a little difficult, isn't it Snuka? You're practically a cripple. You can't sit there and tell me that you're back to normal after what I did to you. You can't tell me that you withstood the impact of a pile-driver on a cement floor and didn't suffer any harm. Because if you did, then my guess was right. You are an animal.

**JS:** I am going to try and knock some sense into you, even though I realize in my heart that you are too evil to accept any sense of reality. But perhaps my proving wrestling superiority over you will teach a lesson to impressionable youngsters who otherwise might listen for five perilous seconds to the bile you verbalize . . .

**CD:** But you know you can't do that, Snuka, because I am a white man, and you are a Negro, and whatever you do, I am always one step ahead of you. That is your curse, Snuka, the curse of the Negro to be inferior to the proud race and always be under his control. You have yet to prove your wrestling superiority over me, Snuka, and you never will. You know and I know that you are lucky to be alive.

**JS:** . . . and when I am through with you, DeBeers, you will be lucky to have teeth in your mouth. It is too bad your wrestling skills are not of the high level of your ignorance. □



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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 6)



Kevin Sullivan is one of the lowest men in wrestling, writes Michelle Robinson. She thinks the Armstrongs, the Fullers, and Jimmy Golden will get their revenge on Sullivan and his men.

out like some ape carrying torches.

You say you got those two head-hunters from the jungles of New Guinea. More like the streets of Chicago, isn't it? If you think those two retarded scuzballs are any good, why don't you put them in there with wrestlers who have been in the profession for a long time instead of those new guys just starting out?

Sullivan, you are the scum in the bottom of the bucket of humanity and you will pay for everything you have done to Steve and the rest of the Armstrongs, as well as the Fullers and Jimmy Golden.

MICHELLE ROBINSON  
DeKalb, MS

### NEWCOMER RICK MARTEL?

One Saturday, I was watching a recent edition of the WWF show *Superstars Of Wrestling*, and I saw the combination of Rick Martel and Tom Zenk, "The Can-Am Connection." During McMahon's commentary, he said that it was their very first time in

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Tony Garea and Rick Martel have their hands raised after successfully defending the WWF tag team belts in 1981. Phillip Bruno is upset by Vince McMahon's claims that Martel never wrestled in the WWF.

the WWF and he knows damn well that Rick Martel was in the WWF once before, when he and Tony Garea were the WWF tag team champions back in 1981.

You know, I am getting sick of McMahon insulting me and other wrestling fans. If he keeps insulting our intelligence and expecting us to believe his lies and misinformation, then I will stop watching the WWF until he and Bruno retire and let Jesse Ventura become head of the WWF and head commentator of *Superstars of Wrestling*.

Ventura should be in McMahon's position because he is better than him and tells it like it is.

PHILLIP BRUNO  
New York

### THE AMAZING BLACKWELL

I'd like to know why my favorite wrestler, Crusher Blackwell, doesn't get the title shots he deserves. He is by far the best big man in pro wrestling. At 472 pounds, he is the quickest, strongest, and has the best overall wrestling skills of any other man close to his weight. I've seen them all: Bundy, One Man Gang, Kamala, even the late Chris Taylor.

Crusher Blackwell's credentials are there: he's former AWA tag team champion and former Missouri champion, he ran Bruiser Brody out of the area, he injured Terry Gordy, he ran

(Continued on page 50)

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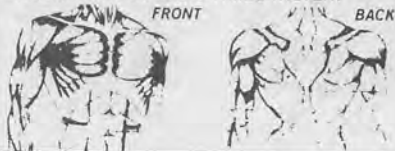
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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 49)



Because of his tremendous weight, Crusher Blackwell has one of the most devastating powerslams in the sport. Bill Walkowitz thinks Blackwell should get a world title shot.

The Freebirds out of the area, and he has taken it to Stan Hansen enough times that Hansen, when he was the AWA champ, was afraid to give him a title shot. He injured the High Flyers (Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell) and bodyslammed Kamala better than the Von Erichs ever could.

Blackwell's wrestling skills are better than any big man around: Bundy, Kamala, etc., can't wrestle as well as Blackwell. They just throw their weight around. Sure, Blackwell does the same thing, but he can do drop toeholds, has the best splash, and can even dropkick. Can Bundy and Kamala do that? No, even Andre the Giant can't dropkick. To put 472 pounds in the air for a dropkick is a feat in itself, but Blackwell does it with ease.

Blackwell deserves a shot at either the AWA or NWA World title. On a good night, Crusher Blackwell can beat anyone in the sport.

BILL M. WALKOWITZ  
Chicago

## FANTASTICS WERE ROBBED

I'm a big fan of The Fantastics and I think they've been cheated! First, Sting and Eddie Gilbert come along and steal the belts from them (with

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Missy Hyatt's help, of course). Then, after two months, they get them back, only to have John Tatum and Jack Victory steal them.

Bobby Fulton and Tommy Rogers can't be blamed for losing either of these matches. There is no doubt that they are definitely the better team. I think the referee was to blame for their match with Tatum and Victory. I know a referee can't be in two different places at the same time, but it's kind of fishy how he was almost always in the wrong place at the wrong time.

There were also several times in the match when Tatum and Victory should have been disqualified, but the referee just overlooked all of this. Because of the stupidity of the referee, Bobby and Tommy have lost their belts! On national TV, they promised their fans that those belts would be back around their waists very soon, and they haven't broken any of their promises to us yet!

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## (Continued from page 10)

Similarly, we print Ivan Koloff and The Iron Sheik's anti-American quotes, because their viewpoint is a major factor in their respective feuds against American wrestlers. Granted, there is far

*(Continued on page 54)*

## 52

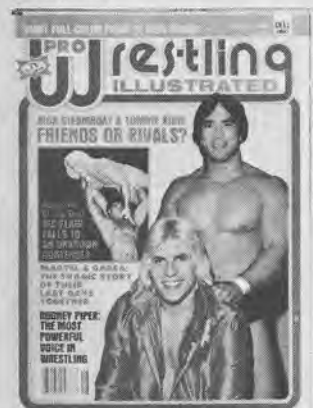
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**June 1982/COLOR PINUP:** Nick Bockwinkel. **Adonis & Ventura**, Snuka, Patera, Flair.



## AUGUST 1982

**August 1982/COLOR PINUP:** Dino Bravo. **Steamboat & Rich**, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

**October 1982/COLOR PINUP:** Jerry Lawler. **Ric Flair**, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

**December 1982/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel. **Hulk Hogan**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Albano.

**January 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

**February 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

**April 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

**June 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Cowboy Bob Orton. **Rick Martel**, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

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**November 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

**December 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

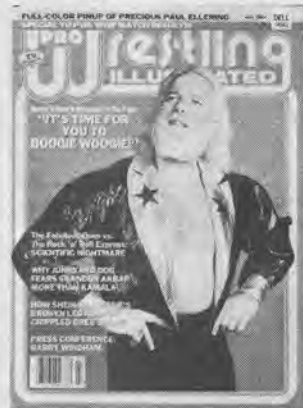
**January 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Harley Race. **Rick Martel**, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

**February 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine**, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

**April 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Rocky Johnson. **Ric Flair**, Hogan, Andre, Bundy.

**May 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Hacksaw Butch Reed. **Hulk Hogan**, Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

**June 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase**, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.



## JULY 1984

**July 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

**August 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler**, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

**October 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich**, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

**November 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

**January 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

**February 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel**, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

**March 1985/SPECIAL YEAR-END AWARDS ISSUE! FOUR PAGE COLOR SECTION:** Billy Jack, Piper, Flair vs. Kerry; **PLUS:** 1984 In Review.



## JUNE 1985

**June 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes**, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

**July 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

**September 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

**October 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

**November 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Randy Savage. **Ric Flair**, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

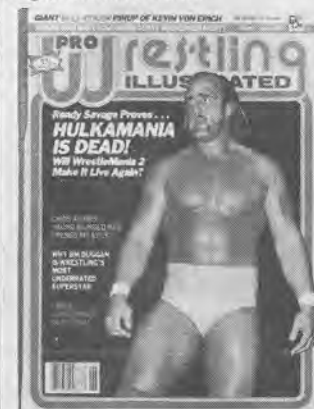
**December 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

**January 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan**, T.A., Brody.

**February 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich**, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

**April 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter**, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

**May 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors**, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.



## JUNE 1986

**June 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan**, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

**July 1986/COLOR PINUP:** King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express**, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

**August 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage**, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

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**November 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs**, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arm-Ole.

**December 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Great American Bash. **Great American Bash**, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

**January 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper**, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

**February 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament**, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

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## DRESSING ROOM

(Continued from page 52)



Col. DeBeers is allowed to express his racist views in this magazine, but that doesn't mean the editors condone them, Stu Saks explains.

less potential for harm in printing a quote saying that Russia or Iran is superior to the United States than a South African saying that the white man is superior to the black man. Racism, unfortunately, is alive and kicking in today's society. The recent attack by a gang of white youths against three blacks in Howard Beach, Queens, that resulted in the death of one of the blacks, followed three days later by a retaliatory attack by blacks against a white in nearby Jamaica, Queens, shows that racism (black against white and white against black) is not reserved for South Africa or South United States.

But, Mr. Price, we are not supporting Col. DeBeers or his racist views by printing his opinions. You'll notice that we will never print DeBeers' quotes in a positive light. We, too, abhor this man and what he represents, and I

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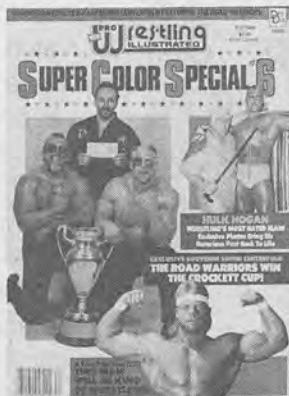
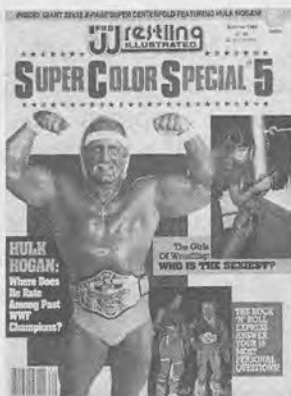
would be very concerned if our stories about him did not convey that feeling. The way we present DeBeers is similar to the way *All In The Family* portrayed Archie Bunker in the 1970s. Viewers were appalled at some of the racial remarks CBS censors allowed to be aired. Soon, though, people realized that the show was trying to portray Archie as representing the ignorance of prejudice. Archie was not a hero; he was the butt of the joke.



The South African terror smashes Scott Hall with a chair. A black subscriber wrote that he doesn't want his children to read DeBeers' inflammatory comments.

After reading a Col. DeBeers story in our magazine, I would hope that one would come away not being influenced by his views, but seeing him for the hateful ignoramus that he is and perhaps better understanding the plight of minorities in today's society. Col. DeBeers should not be silenced, Mr. Price, he should be allowed to spew forth his foolish views so we can see just how low a man he is. And we can work harder to try not to be like him. □

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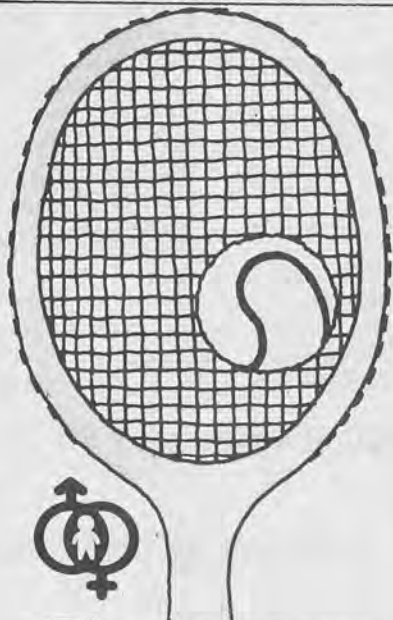
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## NO HOLDS BARRED

(Continued from page 18)

of this incident. Rachal, a native of Natchez, Louisiana, left behind a wife, a son, and a daughter. By all accounts, it appears as if Rachal never had a chance to avoid the accident. Neither did Tatum, who will now have to deal with the charges and the threat they pose to his wrestling career. If cleared, he should be back shortly. But if convicted, this story will become even sadder and a fine wrestling career will have been wasted away.

*The bizarre case of Larry Zbyszko.* When Larry Zbyszko steps into the ring these days, the fans often greet him with a chant of "Wife beater! Wife beater!" It seems as if Zbyszko was involved in a bizarre case with his former wife, Andrea Penque.

This is how Zbyszko tells the story. "I was driving down the highway in Minnesota and she was following me," he says. "We were living together and I just got fed up with her, got into the car, and left. I stopped at a gas station and got out to call the police. Meanwhile, as I'm calling the police, she's outside scratching my car with her keys. To make a long story short, the police showed up and she's crying and whining, claiming that I beat her up when I'm the one who called the police in the first place."

Zbyszko was arrested and spent the night in jail. The following day, he was charged with third-degree assault and held on \$3,000 bond. Meanwhile, Penque went to the local media and claimed that she had been beaten by Zbyszko. According to Penque, Zbyszko out of the ring is every bit as brutal as he is in the ring.

The rest of the story is best told by Assistant District Attorney Bill Nieman. "The charges were pressed because the State of Minnesota made a decision that there

was probable cause to believe that Zbyszko had assaulted Andrea Penque," Nieman said. "The case was dropped. There were some preliminary hearings, but the case never went to trial.

"I dropped the case because there were a number of points that came up regarding the victim's conduct and statements that questioned her as being a creditable person. There were five points mentioned: First, I have a staff here of advocates, women with special training who work with battered women. They said that they did not find Andrea to be creditable. Next, there was a witness who was present [at the gas station] who provided information that was inconsistent with Andrea Penque's testimony. The key fact was that this gas station attendant clearly recollected that she [Penque] followed his car in.

"That's the kind of information that's obviously fundamental. It's incontestable. There's no reason whatsoever for that young woman to not tell the truth." The other three points also questioned Penque's credibility. "At the time of the incident," said Nieman, "I believed that she was a battered woman and most likely battered on the night in question. But she self-destructed and I'm less sure now that I was before [that she was a battered woman.]

"From Larry's perspective, he categorically denied abuse. There's so much smoke, it's hard to know where the truth lies. I've been a prosecutor for eight years, in domestic violence for two years, and I've never had a case where I was so unsure. The jury wouldn't have been able to tell either."

Bizarre. Just like Larry Zbyszko and the rest of the characters in this incredible sport. No, I didn't know what I was getting into. □

# THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 20)

ary Von Erich, he is permitted to engage in all Von Erich activities, including, although not limited to, protecting the venerable family name against rulebreakers.

This special honor leaves him open to attack by the dozens of wrestlers anxious to stamp out the Von Erich family. The reward: The Von Erichs are particularly proud of including their current "best friend" as part of their six-man tag team (though don't bring that subject up around Steve Simpson). Singles honors? Not likely. By the time Kevin, Mike, and Lance have fought for top honors, it's time for Kerry to start the cycle anew. As Adams and Adias discovered, as Steve Simpson will discover shortly, you are a friend of the family as long as you shelve any personal career ambitions. When you are perceived as a threat, you are no longer a friend.

It's a Texas mentality: Sure, pardner, I'll help you out, git you on your feet, stake you some territory as long as you remember who the boss is. Brian Adias had it up to here with that line of crap. In a recent story ("Was Brian Adias Justified In Turning Against The Von Erichs?" *The Wrestler*, March 1987), Stu Saks condemns Adias, claiming that friendships are more important than fame, money, and titles. Stu Saks also believes in the Sandman and has extensive conversations with the Tooth Fairy.

What friendship? Would real friends deny a man an opportunity for a title? Adias, like any wrestler, has devoted his entire career with one aim in mind: to capture a major championship. His enemies have not stood in his way. His friends have. The Von Erich ego refuses to parcel out any of the spotlight. Perhaps their unwillingness to share the fruits of success



Adias was sick of the Von Erichs telling him whom he should wrestle. By the time Kerry, Kevin, Mike, and Lance got all the title shots, Adias received little consideration.

that other people helped them establish accounts for their string of tragedies. Maybe, in His infinite wisdom, God is shaking his head from up above at the family, saying, "Not cool, fellas."

The average career expectancy of a professional wrestler is under seven years. In such a violently unpredictable profession, is it fair to expect Adias to accept the shadows the Von Erichs have imposed upon him? Their word is not law. I find myself in the discomforting position of agreeing with Senior Editor Bill (Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow) Apter. "Adias isn't even related to the Von Erichs, yet he's stuck in their shadow," Apter says and he is right.

Although I'm of the opinion that he will never rise far beyond his current level, Brian Adias owes it to himself to explore his potential. Whatever he owes the Von Erichs, he paid back with a neat kick to Kerry's injured foot. The Von Erichs, like the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Longhorns, must learn that life exists beyond the horizon their limited sight affords them. Anyone willing to teach these Texas muscleheads a lesson is okay in my book. □

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# BARRY WINDHAM

(Continued from page 35)



Windham grabs Ivan Koloff in a full-nelson (above left) and flips him over (above right). After years of defending various singles and tag team titles, the popular Sweetwater, Texas, native believes he is ready for anything Flair can dish out. This may finally be Windham's year to go all the way.

out of trouble in several instances, the first when Khrushchev whipped him into the ropes for a Russian sickle. Windham ducked and came back with a lariat. Windham then went for the pin, but Koloff came into the ring, followed by Garvin, and a four-way brawl ensued. While referee Earl Hebner was busy getting Garvin out of the ring, Khrushchev dumped Windham over the ropes. Krusher went to the corner for his chain, then went after Windham on the ring apron. Barry, seemingly out of it, sprung himself over the ropes and stunned Khrushchev with a match-ending sunset flip.

The fans were as stunned as the former champions. This was a different Barry Windham they were seeing, certainly much different from the man who used to get

frustrated whenever he got into a difficult situation. This time Windham was calm, cool, and continued to map out his game plan, even while in danger of getting pinned. Three years had done a lot for Windham and the fans knew it.

Of course, a lot has happened to Windham since 1983. After he and Mike Rotundo twice won the U.S. (Florida) tag team championship, the pair wrestled briefly in the Mid-Atlantic before moving to the WWF. Windham and Rotundo achieved tremendous success in the WWF, winning the WWF World tag team championship on two occasions. Eventually, though, Windham got homesick and sick of the WWF and returned to Florida. Barry engaged in a massive feud with super rookie Lex Luger before the two became close

friends. Together, they expended much energy mapping out a plan to defeat Flair.

"It's really what I'm here for," says Windham. "I can't expect to just step in and get title shots, since the line to get at Flair is pretty long, but I know that it'll soon be my turn and when it is, Flair will see a different wrestler. I've wrestled him in the past few years, but nothing like I did back in the early '80s. He's in for a big surprise."

Despite Windham's desire to go after Flair, many experts doubt whether he will remain in the World Championship area. Remember, Windham is a former Florida and Southern champion. He is Texas-bred and raised, but his ties to the Sunshine State are very strong. His brother Kendall is still in Florida. Windham is idolized by the Florida fans and might have been the most popular wrestler in the state.

In the World Championship region, he'll have to compete with Dusty Rhodes, Rick Morton, Robert Gibson, and even the injured Magnum T.A. for the fans' affections. Windham knows this. Just before he left Florida, Windham made his feelings known. "Don't Expect Me To Be Another Magnum T.A." he said in the March 1987 issue of *The Wrestler*.

"I think the fans are ready to accept that now," says Windham. "They know who I am and they know what I'm capable of doing. I'm here to wrestle and give my best. The fans know that when they see me, they're seeing a wrestler who always gives 100 percent. Winning the tag belt so quickly made a big difference. It took a lot of the pressure off. Now I'm ready for Flair. Bring him on!"

It's 1987. Barry Windham is ready for anything! □

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## BEN STRONG



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June 1980/Graham, Patera, Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.

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September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.

October 1981/Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen, Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.

November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

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May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.

October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

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December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink.

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April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.

May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.



JUNE 1983

June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.

July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.

January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.

February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.

August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.

November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!

December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.

January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.

June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.

October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.

November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.



APRIL 1986

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.

July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Luger, Dundee, UWF tourney.

October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.

December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.

January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.

February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Luger, 1987 Datebook.

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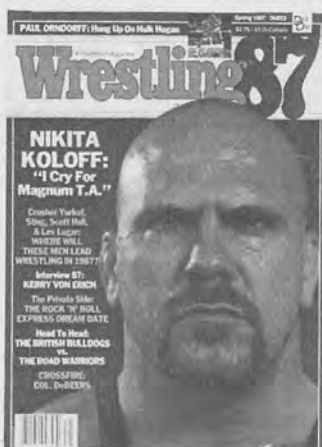
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### Wrestling 87

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## RICK STEAMBOAT

*(Continued from page 37)*



With some difficulty, Savage pins Steamboat against the ropes. The Intercontinental champion was determined to eliminate Steamboat from title contention.

age. As Steamboat is stopped by the referee, Steele scoops up Elizabeth and carries her away.

Things are now totally out of hand. Steamboat is escorted away from the ring and Steele returns to continue his attack on Savage. But The Macho Man regains the edge and uses the ring bell to lay out Steele. Suddenly, Steamboat returns from the dressing room, clears out Savage, and brings Steele back to the dressing room.

Steamboat never laid a hand on Savage. He never got a chance. But he would have if he could have. This is no nightmare, Randy Savage.

*He's back.*

\*\*\*

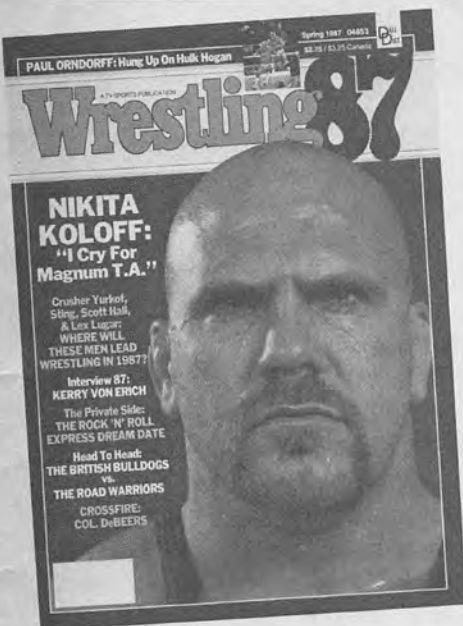
Things were not going well for Rick Steamboat at the time of the Savage incident. Although he was ranked number five in the WWF ratings, Steamboat seemed to lack direction. He badly wanted Savage's Intercontinental title, but was still reeling from his series of matches against Jake "The Snake" Roberts.

"I don't think Steamer ever got over that time when Roberts DDT'd him and wrapped the boa around his body," said a close friend of Steam-

*(Continued on page 64)*

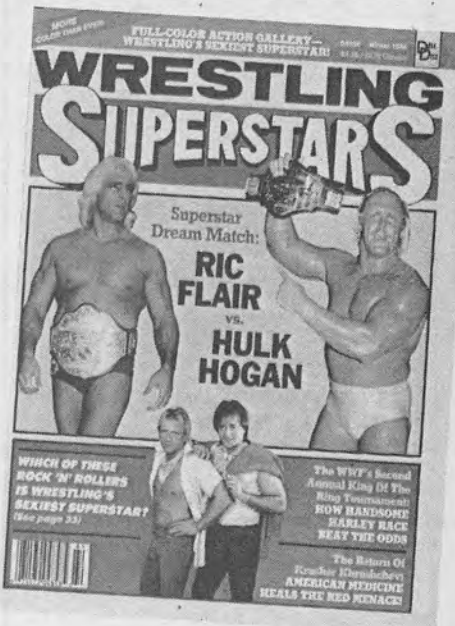
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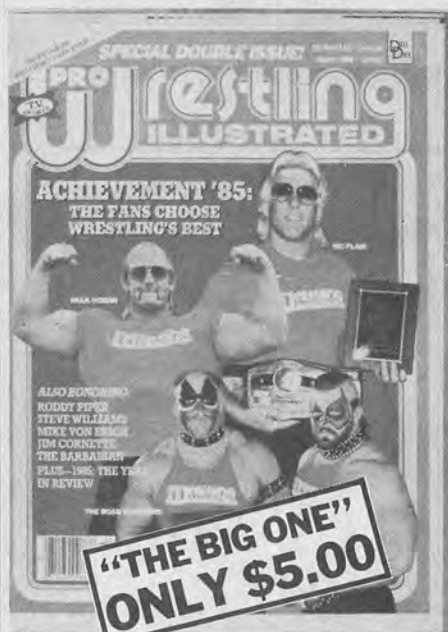
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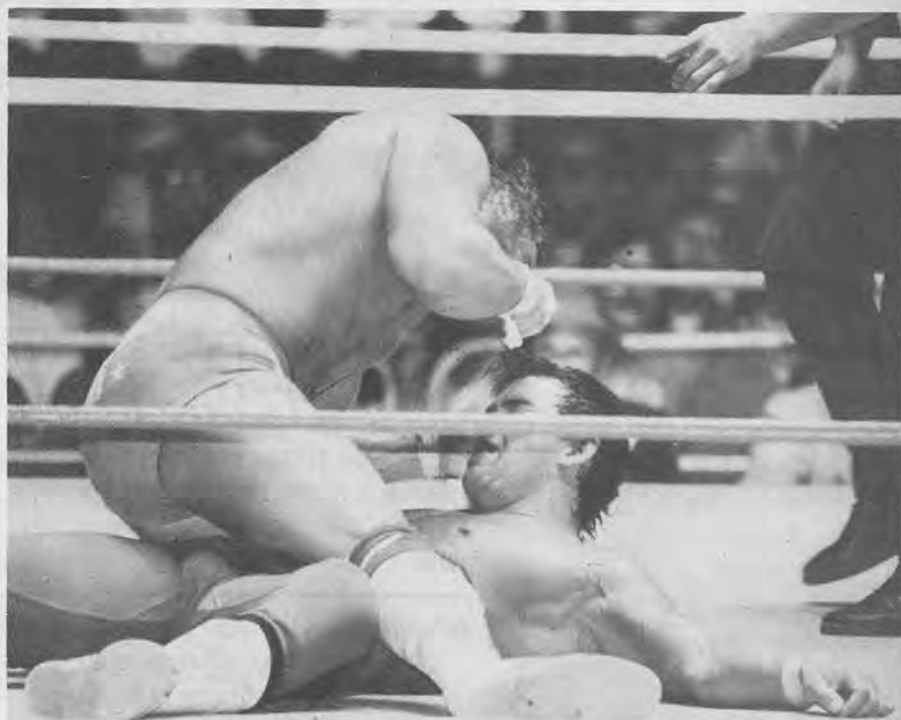
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## RICK STEAMBOAT

(Continued from page 62)



Savage relentlessly pounds away at Steamboat, who made his first appearance back in the WWF during a match between Savage and George Steele. Even though Steamboat is a tremendous athlete, some doctors believe he may have come back too soon against a man of Savage's caliber.

boat's. "That really shook him up. He finally got some measure of revenge against Jake, but all those matches, all that time expended, took its toll when Steamer finally got the title matches against Savage."

In other words, Steamboat was not mentally and emotionally prepared for his matches against Savage, certainly a dangerous condition to be in. Savage is one of the most ferocious men in all of wrestling, deathly ruthless and inhumanly merciless. The Intercontinental title is his prize, Elizabeth his impetus. And Steamboat wasn't ready.

Unfortunately, it took this career-threatening injury to shake up "The Dragon." Suddenly, Roberts was no longer a concern. Savage, in one brutal spree, had shot to the top of Steamboat's most wanted list. While recuperating in the hospital, Steamboat could think of only one thing: getting back at Savage.

Hartford was only the beginning. No doubt there will be more Savage-Steamboat matches. This feud will end only when one man is thoroughly beat-

en and unable to go on. Obviously, that's going to take a lot. Steamboat looked like he was gone, but managed to come back.

"He's a medical miracle, but there seem to be many of those among professional wrestlers," said Dr. Thomas Frawley, who has treated cases similar to Steamboat's. "They're in such incredible shape and can withstand injuries that the normal human body cannot. Steamboat took this a step further. He had no right coming back."

Whether he will return at 100 percent strength remains to be seen. And there are other more basic questions: Can he beat Randy Savage? Is Steamboat the better wrestler?

Those questions could become moot, because The Dragon is breathing fire. Sometimes physical factors have nothing to do with a wrestling rivalry. Sometimes it just comes down to who's meaner, who has more desire, and who has more to lose.

Rick Steamboat is Randy Savage's worst nightmare. ☐

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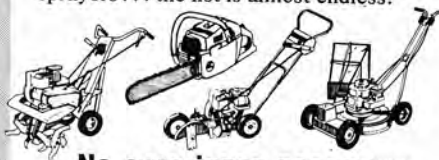
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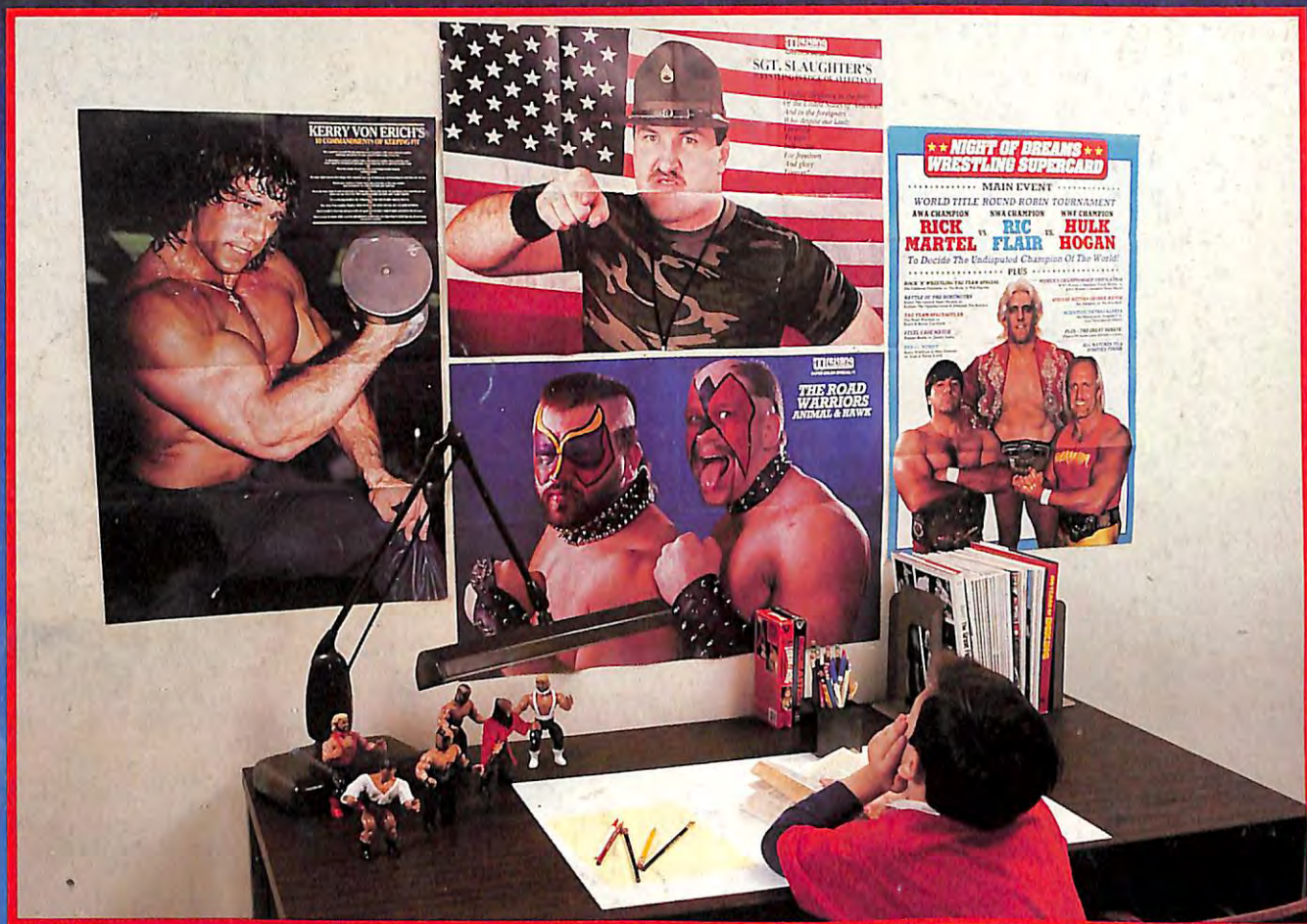
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